



U3A

Northumbria Messenger

January 2011



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*A very Merry Christmas and
a Happy New Year to all readers,*

Editor

New Members' Meet In Teesdale

We have just held our second "New Members' Meeting" and we think we'll have another one next year because it did seem to go down rather well.



So what is a "New Member's Meeting"? What is the thinking behind it and what happens?

Teesdale U3A will be 4 years old in April and, for the first couple of years our Monthly Meeting was in a cosy location, where it was relatively easy to welcome and absorb new members. Like many U3As we outgrew that first venue and had to move. The seventeen founding members who had had to learn together about the whys and wherefores of the U3A had been joined by another 200 plus who hadn't had quite the same learning curve. Our portfolio of Interest groups hadn't changed very much from the ones we started with and, guess what: for the most part the same people were still doing everything! Had we reached the stage where, for some new members, the first visits could give them that demotivating feeling of being alone in a crowd? Were we beginning to look "cliquey". Did many newer members think they'd joined a club which ran monthly talks, end of story?

To answer our concerns we put together a **New Members Meeting**. We called it "Coffee, Cake and Conversation" because we thought "coffee morning" could have gender based connotations. We sent every member who had joined in the preceding year a personal RSVP invitation to meet the Chairman and Committee at the event. We devised a series of short talks, each with a guillotine of five minutes.

The Chairman would give a brief history of our U3A, the Treasurer would tell the members how we spend their subscriptions and how groups are funded, the Groups Coordinator would describe the groups. The Regional Rep would explain Northumbria Region and the Business Secretary would outline the Third Age Trust. Out of the first New Members Meeting emerged a new group, the Astronomy Group plus a New Member's rep to be coopted onto the committee, to have a stand at all Monthly Meetings, to distribute our New Members' leaflets and to represent their interests.

We refined our practice at our second New Members Meeting. We factored in more time for feedback and questions, we took along our display boards and we had an MC to enforce the 5 minute rule for talks. Out of this meeting it seems a Creative Writing group is finally going to get off the ground, there is interest in a Debating Group and there is a new convener for the lapsed Cinema Group.

The best outcome of all would be for every new member to go to the next main or group meeting, confident of a welcome, knowing they will recognise far more faces and with a greater understanding of what U3A is about.

Anne Harbron

CHAIRMAN'S REPORT DECEMBER 2010



It seems amazing that here we are at the end of another year. It has been a busy one for the Region and next year already looks to have quite a few events being planned which are mentioned elsewhere in *The Messenger*. We are looking to promote a large Regional Event soon so please respond to John Lloyd's survey about this.

Joyce (as Regional Trustee) and I were recently invited to give two presentations to the South West Region about how we manage the Northumbria Region which seemed to produce a lot of interest amongst those who attended. Amongst the audience were Lin Jonas, Ian Searle and Terry Hardie who seemed to take a lot of interest in what we had to say. We certainly seem to have had considerable contact with the Third Age Trust this year.

I was somewhat concerned that the Trust Meeting with Lin Jonas and Terry Hardie in Darlington was perhaps too soon after the January meeting in Ponteland but I was delighted with the response and hope that those who attended found it worthwhile. I was particularly pleased to see a delegation from one of our newest U3A's - Seaham Harbour. It is the Trust's intention that these meetings should be held annually and they pay the costs for the day. There are other subjects we can ask them to come and talk about apart from Finance. I am sure that Joyce would like to hear your suggestions for future meetings.

I think it is a good thing to meet with the National Officials. It helps us to understand where the Third Age Trust is going and it is clear that we are at least listened to. It was interesting that when Joyce and I were at the meetings in the South West we did hear things from Terry and Ian that must have originated here in Northumbria.

Best wishes for Christmas and the New Year and hoping to see you all at the Regional Meeting on January 26th, weather permitting.

John Leiper

Chairman – Northumbria Region



Love IT or hate IT ?

Modern Gadgets Heralded As Saviours

- (1) Embrace New Technology, that's what I say. (Alright, I don't use Twitter and I haven't joined Face Book, but I could.)

Two things have happened recently suggest to me that we should not turn our backs on changes in the way we communicate.

Firstly, our U3A (Ponteland) has just produced a book of members' Wartime Memories which has been put together by our Local History Convenor but without the use of Desktop Publishing and email this would have been a tedious and time consuming exercise. As it was, our IT experts were able to assist and they have produced a professional document which was delivered to the printer electronically, saving time and producing a high quality product.



- (2) Secondly, and dramatically, my experience during the great snow bombardment emphasised how dependent we have become on new means of communication.



Overnight, our phone line was brought down by a falling branch, depriving me in one fell swoop of landline and broadband connection. This was just at the time that I had taken on the responsibility of hosting a committee meeting, to be followed, two days after, by chairing our Christmas meeting where entertainment and eats were planned. Thank goodness that I had a mobile phone, it was a lifeline but oh how I missed the usefulness of email to send messages charting the shifts in decisions as the snow increased.

We had the meeting but only fourteen of us got there through the snow. The entertainment was off but we did have a cup of tea and cake to celebrate our success on getting to the venue and to fortify us for the journey home.

So, do you agree that New Technology is essential?

- (3) A call from Skye saved the second one-day event at Bowes Museum. The host for that day, Sandy (Hood), had had an accident and emailed the rest of the committee for help. None was going to be available on the day - all were away, (recuperating from their valiant efforts on the first day of these events?). BUT Anne (Harbron), way out on the Isle of Skye used her Blackberry to contact Teesdale U3A chairman, Diana (Mead), in Middleton to enlist her help. In the words of Gary Moulton, this must surely rank as one of the "good experiences" using IT. Many thanks to Anne for such devotion to duty while on holiday.



In 2007 over 900 members attended New College Durham for a 1- day event to mark 25 years of U3A in the UK. Static displays, demonstrations, opportunities to watch, and often take part in, typical U3A sessions were provided by over half the U3As in the Region. 400 3-course lunches were served in about 90 minutes!
A big day indeed! Another is proposed for 2011.

See page 5 more information.

Events galore - past and future



What a year 2010 has been!

Maybe the snow came to give us all a rest to get ready for Christmas?

- *Centre for Life* for days of Science - attracted more than 300 members
- *Mini Medical sessions* - for a select few
- *Bowes Museum Study Days* - nearly 100 members studied art and textiles
- *History on the Tyne* - enjoyed by many
- Help to 'Voice North' with many research projects - by how many we do not know
- Regional events at Ponteland and Darlington - to meet members of TAT

We thank all who helped us and all who came : we can do nothing without your involvement



Many vital steps to decisions for 2011 have been delayed but just put on ice!?

PENDING EVENTS are in Ashington, Alnwick, Stockton, and Newcastle.

THE SUMMER SCHOOL IN DURHAM UNIVERSITY PHYSICS DEPARTMENT in April has had National take up but we will accept a few more non-residents for 11th/12th April 2011.

BIG DAY in 2011

There has been limited response, but all positive, to the questionnaire about holding another big day in 2011. Your deadline to respond is by the January Regional Meeting. Before would be better.

If you have lost the questions -

ask or phone a John on 0191 567 4484 or 01890 840 494

Have a good Festive Season and make you New Year resolution

"The more I do for U3A, the more I shall get from it!"



John Lloyd
for Events sub committee

U3A and the BBC -

2010 saw at least 3 mentions of U3A by the BBC. Jack in *New Tricks on BBC 1* was seen giving a talk to a U3A with gatecrashers Brian and Gerry adding their penn'orth from the back. Not the best advert for U3A. The 'members' were somewhat po-faced, but then the speaker's performance was definitely not on the "recommended" list.

Sussex Region were hosts to **Gardeners Question Time** on Radio 4 and in Norfolk, one U3A spokesman was to be heard describing visits to a **private cinema** they enjoy on a regular basis - and they often get to choose the films!

Recommended Reading: *The Dark Side of Love* by Rafik Schama - an 853 page epic novel of life in Damascus with murder, intrigue, lust, religion and politics. A real insight into the Middle East and its problems.

Richmond miscellany

We enjoyed the day in Darlington and found the talk by **Gary Moulton** particularly interesting though we wished it had not been cut short. Talks by Terrie Hardie and Lin Jonas were very helpful - clear and informative. It was good to put a face to the name that comes at the end of all the Natinal Newsletters!

Earlier this year Richmond was fortunate enough to receive a fairly substantial **Grassroots Grant** from the Yorkshire Dales Millennium Trust which will allow us to **buy new equipment** such as folding display boards and a sound system for general meetings among other things. It will also give us a little more money to spend on speakers.

We were disappointed when we had to cancel our November meeting because of the snow - the speaker for that day was Robert Cooper from the Stockton area. Last year he gave a vey **good talk on Lindisfarne** - a mixture of words, music and beautiful slides - and we were looking forward to **his latest talk, "Song of the Tees"**.

There have been various outings this year - the Gardening group has made lots of visits to gardens and there was a more general visit to the **Tall Ships in Hartlepool**. Here we were disappointed as we found very poor arrangements for older people, several of whom were exhausted after the long walk from the coach park to the ships. We felt that Newcastle was definitely the better venue for such an event. At the beginning of October a group of 14, mainly members of the French Group, spent a very enjoyable week in Tours and the Loire valley. We stayed in a very large **Benedictine Convent** on the banks of the Loire - a different experience! The rooms were sparsely furnished but each had its own bathroom and the food was



wholesome and good. We were all very resourceful using various forms of transport - car, bus train - to visit many of the chateaux.



Pat Croft



Alnwick U3A takes one year to celebrate ten !

This year Alnwick U3A has been celebrating its 10th Anniversary. We decided that we did not want just to have a party, but to have a continuous celebration throughout the year.

We were in the process of considering some sort of exhibition to launch the year, when the circular came through from the national office about the **Learning Revolution Grant**. Our successful application enabled us to produce professional-looking displays, which will be useful to have for future events, and the offer of an exhibition space at **Alnwick Garden** provided us with an ideal venue to get our celebrations off to a good start with a very well attended event at the beginning of April.

This was followed by a **family ceilidh** in May, when we danced to a ceilidh band provided by a local high school. In June we had a sponsored walk - again for family groups - when we enjoyed a **walk** along the beautiful Northumberland coast and **raised some money for our local hospice**. As our very first outing had been a river **trip on the Tyne**, we decided to do that again in July, this time going up river instead of down, although some of us had to go down river again, as numbers were limited on the other boat.

We had a rest from celebrations in August and September and then went to town in October with a **formal dinner** and, finally, a **buffet lunch with birthday cake at our AGM**. We are now looking forward to the next ten years.



Maureen Stephenson

A SPECIAL THANK YOU from



Thank you very much for all the time and support you have given to Voice North over the last year. Over the last 12 months members of Voice North have supported over 50 projects and your involvement has been a fundamental factor in their success.

We very much appreciate and value your contribution to such important projects and value the time that you have given up to help us succeed.

We look forward to involving you in many exciting projects in the coming months and throughout 2011.

With best wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year,
Sarah Armstrong, Dr. Lynne Corner & Prof. Jim Edwardson

TAT comes to Darlington Rugby Club



U3A Northumbria Regional Meeting – Wednesday November 17th

This whole-day meeting was attended by representatives from most of the U3As in the Northumbria Region. There were three presentations:

- a **representative of Microsoft, Gary Moulton**, on developments in the use of computers for older people set the scene, followed by
- the **national treasurer, Terry Hardie**, on how we should look after finances, etc.
- and the **national secretary, Lin Jonas**, on the various insurances the national organization provides to cover activities and other services.

Thanks must go to South Durham U3A who provided the PA system. For anyone interested this was a *speakezee* system, advertised in the U3A News magazine.

Comments from - Ashington ...

The most useful talk for us was the one by the **national treasurer** which covered keeping accounts, annual reports, bank accounts etc. Most of what he said we already do but we need to look at whether we need reorganize our bank account. Also, we need to keep some records of group finances.

The talk by the **national secretary** was useful and the **computing talk** was of general interest. A lot of what was discussed is more applicable to large U3As where there are many more groups and are, clearly, a lot richer. The national treasurer talked about some large U3As having £10,000 in reserves and as a whole the organization has reserves in excess of £2,000,000 split between national and groups.

Overall the meeting was very useful and I met members from other groups notably Morpeth, Alnwick and Seaham Harbour which is a small newly formed group like ours.

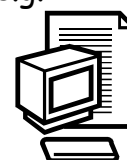
- Teesdale ...

It was a good opportunity to meet Terry Hardie and Lin Jonas, as well as other people from our region. It was very interesting to hear their view and opinions on various matters, and very useful to have many points on procedure and policy explained more fully. Information sticks in the mind more clearly when heard as well as read! We were surprised at some of the nit-picking and very basic questions put by some members - and intrigued at what some U3As get up to e.g. 2-line balance sheets and freebie cruises!!



- and others ...

- Today's meeting with Lin and Terry was well attended and seemed, on the whole, to be well received. Gary Moulton gave a very amusing talk, but we didn't learn much about solving our computer problems - or making them more user friendly.
- Interesting entertaining but not much substance.... too short
- A bit cramped for space - hope next time we can use the whole building.
- A very good way to meet members from the National Executive Committee.



Regional Trustee's Report December 2010



I didn't want to mention the dreaded weather but it has certainly made things very difficult for us all. Our NEC meeting was cancelled this week indeed I only just managed to get back home from the DSC meeting in London before the first snows fell on 24th November. Our own regional Development Sub Committee and Event Sub Committees have had to be cancelled.

I hope that chairmen have been able to obtain their members' views and completed the **questionnaire that was sent out by National Office**. This should be returned by 15th December and it is your opportunity to say what you think.

We had a very interesting and informative meeting in Darlington on the 17th November when Terry Hardie, our National Treasurer, and Lin Jonas, our Company Secretary came to our Regional Delegates Day. Having the event in the south of the region was much appreciated by members in that part of the region and we would hope to repeat this.

I am pleased to report that there are a couple of **Shared Learning Projects** about to take place in the region. One that I am particularly involved in is obtaining names and whereabouts of commoners (levy soldiers) that fought and died in the **Battle of Flodden** on 9th September 1513. We are also going to compare these figures with call-up and casualties of WW1 and WW11. I placed an article in the *U3A News* and have had replies from people from other regions who are keen to be involved. Indeed one person is actually a descendant from such a soldier. These results will hopefully be completed by the anniversary in 2013.

There are possibly other SLPs that are taking place over the region and if so I would be delighted to hear about them.

I would like to remind members that it is possible to **view the minutes of our NEC meetings** on the website approximately two months after the meeting.

Can I request that if there are any members who have had **life changing events** happen through joining the U3A to let me know. There will be a slot at the next Conference/AGM in Nottingham where members can speak about them. I know on a personal note that my life changing experience is not having enough hours in the day because of all the events that are happening in my own U3A and further afield. This is not particularly interesting because I am sure many of you have the same experience. However if any of you have something really life changing that would be interesting to other members this would be welcome.

There is a **U3A Roll of Honour** which commemorates U3A members whose service to their own U3A and the U3A movement has been above and beyond the call of duty. If you have a member or members you would like to nominate please send a short citation to Lin Jonas at National Office.

Joyce Watts, Regional Trustee.

Guests for a day at Alnwick Gardens



An invitation was extended to all U3A outings/travel group leaders in the Northumbria area by Alnwick gardens and on Wednesday, 15th September. Judith Hall and Sylvia Elliott of the South Durham group trundled off on the long journey to Alnwick by train. We left Darlington at 09.05 and had a very pleasant journey to Alnwick. We were intending to get the bus to Alnwick but on arrival it was breathtakingly windy so we jumped into a taxi and found it was only a 10 minute journey to the castle.

On arrival we were given coffee and we met some of the other ladies from U3A groups. There were only 18 of us in the end.

After coffee we were split into two groups of 9 and off we went on a tour of the gardens. The weather was fine until we got right to the top of the cascade and the heavens opened, soaking us all - not many were prepared for rain. We dashed back to the covered area between downpours, were supplied with paper towels and eventually got dried off.

We then went down to one of the restaurants for a very nice buffet lunch and were then taken into the castle for a tour. The guide was very interesting - telling us all about the house and family, even the Duchess's gift of stuffed rats for her friends Christmas presents - yack.

We had already decided to organise a trip there next year and this outing concreted our decision to do so.



Sylvia Elliott

Education and Development in Northumbria Region

REGIONAL RESOURCES "CENTRES"

The following equipment is now available for loan by any U3A within the Region

- Notice boards (4)
- Banners (2) - floor standing, depicting activities in the Region
- Lap top computers (2)
- Projectors (2)
- Screens -
- Digital camera/camcorder (2)

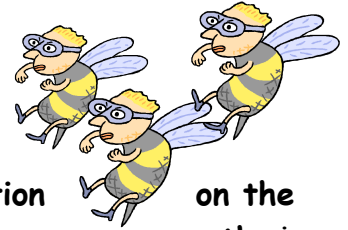
Get in touch with the E & D Contact nearest you for more information:

Joyce McKay: 01677 450 494 is in Northallerton for those in the south of the region

Margaret Minns: 0191 414 3924 is in Wickham, for those in the north of the region

Busy Bees at Bede

The members of Bede of Jarrow have had a very interesting, busy and enjoyable year of activities, from **exhibiting their art** to visiting the **Bowes Museum** and a very interesting talk from the volunteer life boat crew when we visited the **Watch Tower of South Shields**. We also visited **Trinty House in Newcastle** as well as outings to **Ford Castle** and other places of interest.



We were asked by South Shields museum to create an **exhibition on the history of South Tyneside** which was **on display for three months** in the museum. Following the success of the exhibition, we were then asked to create a **sculpture of the sights and favourite places in South Shields** which will go on display in the **Laing Gallery in Newcastle** some time in the new year.

A few members took part in a workshop called '**Culture Shock**' which is on the website and was on exhibition in **The Great North Museum** and moved on to **Beamish** and other museums around the country.

The members also enjoyed the newest sections, croquet being one of them and learning the game of bridge.

The latest and very successful activity the members were given was from a suggestion by Derek Hutchinson to fill a **shoe box** with a small xmas gift and useful items, which they wrapped beautifully to send to the soldiers (male and female) to **camp Bastion hospital in Afghanistan**. We had an overwhelming response to the appeal, and every member made up at least one shoe box. There was a special organised collection specifically from Jarrow U3A.



Sergeant Charlie Watts (no relation to our Trustee?) who was in charge of the event came with the transport to send the 270 shoe boxes to Afghanistan. She was amazed touched and delighted with the generosity of the members. I am sure that the soldiers will be even more pleased when they receive them at Christmas.

Mavis Hudson. Acting secretary Bede U3A

Carols end Darlington's year



All activities proceeded normally up to the end of the year. The newly formed Family History group is going from strength to strength. It has two sections: one experts and one beginners. Group activity ended with Christmas lunch attended by over one hundred and twenty members. Our final event of the year was the annual carol service, again with an attendance of over one hundred despite the inclement weather.

All activities will resume early in January.

Best wishes for Christmas and the new year, Harry Gibbs.



PROVIDE

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You will be reimbursed for your travel expenses and receive a small honorarium for your participation.

If interested, please contact:

Mr. Lee Munro on 0191-222-3592

or email: Provide@ncl.ac.uk

School of Agriculture, Food & Rural Development, Newcastle University

Provide recruitment poster advert Version 2 11.02.10

Jenny Lewis from Tynedale U3A is perhaps only one of many U3A members who have been taking part in the above. Her comment - "Well, I'm still alive!" and as those who know her can confirm, she is still very active and alert! Maybe this is for you in 2011?



Due to lack of interest neither of the proposed inter-U3A Bridge meetings went ahead. Thanks to Cowtons & Countryside and Berwick U3As for trying.

Once Upon A Crime photographers take care

On October 2010 the U3A's newly formed photography group had its first outing in Morpeth. A small (but quality) group decided to walk along the river on a crisp bright morning paying particular attention to the colourful autumn foliage. The snappers in question were June Padley, Margaret Trewick, Norma Talbert, and Anne Moore. After taking numerous shots, the four decided the next sensible thing to do would be to have coffee. Having enjoyed her coffee Margaret being the busy lady she is went home, while the remaining three walked along the opposite side of the river. A while later, they were standing on the Chantry footbridge admiring one of the houses by the riverside. The owner was busying himself in the garden while they composed shots of the scene. Norma laughed and June and Ann wondered what the joke was. She pointed out that the gentleman could be thinking it's a bit unusual to see three strange women photographing his house. A planned burglary? Were they "casing the joint? The mind boggles at such a thought!!!



Just imagine if this ever happened

Scene: 1am - A Morpeth riverside.

JUNE: I'm not too happy about this full moon tonight.
 NORMA: Don't worry, we've got more black on our faces than the Black and White Minstrels!
 JUNE: I suppose you're right but it can't be good for the complexion!
 NORMA: If we pull this job off we'll be buying face creams only film stars can afford!
 ANNE: I'm cold I wish I'd put my thermal vest on!
 JUNE: Never mind, you'll be able to retire to California with your share.
 ANNE: I only hope there isn't a nasty big guard dog behind this wall.
 NORMA: Mind, this wall didn't look so high from the bridge!
 JUNE: Come on, give me a burnp up!
 ANNE: I could do with a fireman's lift!
 JUNE: Ooh! Arrghh, eeh, ooh! Puffi!
 ANNE: I've just strained something important!!
 NORMA: My wellies are stuck!!
 ANNE: And just because we didn't see an alarm doesn't mean there isn't one!
 JUNE: My hands are cold, oops I've dropped the torch!
 ANNE: Just think, if we get caught we'll be thrown out of the U3A!
 NORMA: Thrown out of the U3A **and** be guests of Her Majestys Prison to boot!
 JUNE: Maybe this wasn't such a good idea!
 ANNE: A nice cup of hot chocolate or a hot toddy seems a better one!
 NORMA: Right! Let's go home girls ----- maybe a life of crime isn't for us!

As Morpeth heaves a sigh of relief, Norma, June and Anne continue to be the same upstanding, law abiding and respectable women you all know,

Contributed by Anne Moore, Ashington

Guisborough writes ...

One of the most popular activities in Guisborough U3A's programme is the monthly outing, organised by our enthusiastic Excursions Team. These occasions are designed to cater for all tastes from trips to the theatre, to country houses and gardens, to river cruises.



The year started with the ballet *Nutcracker* at Newcastle's Theatre Royal, and ends at Gateshead's Sage with Handel's *Messiah*. Theatre visits included Alan Bennett's *Enjoy*, again at Newcastle, *Northanger Abbey* at the Theatre by the Lake, Keswick and Alan Ayckbourn's *Communicating Doors* at the Stephen Joseph Theatre, Scarborough. Time is allowed for retail therapy on these occasions, or in the case of Scarborough for a bracing walk by the sea.



We like to take full advantage of our wonderful Yorkshire heritage and scenery: a visit to the Hawes Wensleydale Creamery and the recently opened Gayle Mill which proved both informative and absolutely fascinating. A trip to York included a tour of the Bar Convent, with a lively talk on its turbulent history by Sister Agatha whose humour made it most entertaining.



Visits to stately homes and gardens are always a favourite feature of the programme: two estates visited this year were Harewood House, and Wallington Hall, the latter unfortunately on a rather rainy day. Other popular outings were to Harlow Carr in Harrogate and to Beamish Open Air Museum. We are embarking on a new venture in December to one of our most attractive cities, a visit to the Durham Christmas Fair - surely something for everyone there, from crafts, to mulled wine, to the delights of carol singing in the most beautiful of cathedrals.



Margaret Walkley

Do you remember ????

- How long it took to convince the trust that **REGIONS** should be part of the Trust?
- Do you know how long it has taken for the **initials U3A** to become better known?
- How many times have you said that you are **in U3A**?

Some may remember the start nearly 30 years ago, but none of those would have thought of 80,000 names on a list to receive a national newspaper (together with *Sources* information).

Should we now be ahead of the rest and have available in some acceptable form a list of all the people in Northumbria that count themselves in "U3A"?

For Discussion at the January Regional Meeting??

Durham considers Peace and Reconciliation in Northern Ireland

Alex Nelson is a man of many parts. Previously, Alex the Entrepreneur has taken us behind the scenes at his little railway station in Chester-le-Street. On 14th October Alex gave us an insight into the work of the Corrymela Community in Northern Ireland

Founded in 1965 at Ballycastle, a local seaside resort, the Community has since then been running a series of projects and special events that have brought Protestants and Roman Catholics together to share their concerns and interests in the future of their province.

When you are in the middle of conflict, what you need most is neutral territory from which to negotiate. Corrymela has been an oasis of peace and a platform for reconciliation throughout Northern Ireland's troubled past. Alex is one of a handful of Englishmen who have been invited to become full members of the Community.

His first trip to Northern Ireland was one of purely student exploration in 1983. This was followed by occasional visits to a local bus factory related to his employment with the Northern Bus Company. Then his local church in Burnhopefield decided to support the work of Corrymela financially. In time Alex started to act as a volunteer bus driver for the Community during his summer holidays. As the saying goes, one thing led to another. Alex is nothing if not an enthusiast at heart and this showed through to his presentation to us. Needless to say, it evoked a very warm response from his audience.

Ron Todd, Durham U3A

3 in a row

For the last three Decembers affected by snow. Two years ago talk and songs about the life and work which, unfortunately for such a magnificent and presentation, was poorly attended as the majority of members could not get there because of a sudden downfall of snow. Last year and, unfortunately, this year the snow arrived well in time to cover the road leading to our meeting place and make it impassable so our December meetings have been cancelled. Perhaps next year we shall enjoy a seasonably entertaining session. Who knows, we may revert to the rain we were once used to at this time of year!



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Perhaps next year we shall enjoy a seasonably entertaining session. Who knows, we may revert to the rain we were once used to at this time of year!

Joan Thurman, Durham U3A

Congratulations to Joan (Sutherland, as was) on her marriage to Malcolm Thurman.





Dates for your 2011 diary ...

January 26th, Wednesday	Regional Meeting - 9.45am for 10.15am at The Angel View Inn, Gateshead
April 5th, Tuesday	History Day at Woodhorn Museum with Ashington U3A. Contact George Flynn on 01670 854975 for details.
April 11-14th Mon-Thurs.	Residential Science based School at Durham University - Residential and non-Residential. Details from John Leiper or John Lloyd (See pg. 5)
May 4th or 5th (to be confirmed)	Northumbria Regional AGM details to be confirmed.
July 5th, Tuesday	Stockton Celebrates 25 years at the Stockton Campus of Durham University. Keynote speaker is Chris Mullin, diarist and former MP. Details from Stockton U3A.

U3A Northumbria Region Committee

Elected at the AGM in May 2010, is as follows:



<u>Position</u>	<u>Person Elected</u>	<u>Email address</u>
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The editor regrets: Normal Talbot was credited with the Ashington entry on page 11 in the October issue. This should have read Lin Hardiman. Apologies all round.

For copies of this publication and other regional information visit the
Northumbria Regional website www.nru3a.co.uk