



U3A

Northumbria Messenger

October 2011



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Latest: See page 15 for info on Third Age Trust Meeting in Ponteland in November.

U3A Northumbria Region

Committee - Elected at the AGM in April 2011 was as follows:

<u>Position</u>	<u>Person Elected</u>	<u>Email address</u>
Chairman	John Leiper	lorbottle@tiscali.co.uk
Vice-Chairman	Brian Stephenson	bsteph316@aol.com
Business & Distribution Sec.	Barbara Herring	barbara@sdit/co.uk
Treasurer	Maureen Stephenson	Mesteph7@aol.com
Minutes Secretary	Maggie Grocott	mad36g@aol.com

Ex Officio

Regional Trustee	Joyce Watts	joyce.lorbottle@tiscali.co.uk
Educ. & Development Contacts	Margaret Minns	wwu3a@hotmail.com
	Joyce McKay	jmcmckay1@btinternet.com
Newsletter Editor	Sandy Hood	regnewseditor@gmail.com
Contact List & Website Editor	Mo Morgan	regionalu3alist@btinternet.com

Committee Members

	Anne Finn	annefinn@blueyonder.co.uk
	Derek Grocott	mad36g@aol.com
	Pat Penney	patpenney@btinternet.com

---oOo---

Sub Committee members - at the time of going to press - (email addresses are above)

Development:

Margaret Minns, Joyce McKay Brian Stephenson
Maureen Stephenson Joyce Watts John Leiper

Events:

Chaired by John Lloyd (johnlloyd73@hotmail.com) with

John Leiper Joyce Watts Sandy Hood and Brian Stephenson

Help would be much appreciated. If you would like to work with either of these sub committees please get in touch with a member of that committee.

Regional Chairman's Report October 2011

I have just returned from the National Conference and AGM. I think I am speaking for most people in saying the event was very enjoyable, entertaining and thought provoking. It was also well organised, thanks to Lin Jonas and her team.

For the first time there was a ballot for the position of National chairman during a current chairman's three year term of office. However, Ian Searle was re-elected with a fairly comfortable majority. There had been no nominations for the post of Hon. Treasurer and Terry Hardie was standing down having completed his six-year term of office. On the day, Jo Harrison of Harwich Peninsula U3A volunteered to take on the role.

Of the two motions, the first was carried but the motion submitted by Wearside and seconded by Newcastle was defeated. Once again, the motion was carried in the room but it was the number of proxy votes that were responsible for the defeat. This, shows how important it is to attend an AGM so that you can hear the arguments put forward before the votes are cast.

The speakers again were excellent. Baroness Estelle Morris talked about Education for All. Professor Peter Kalmus and Professor Heinz Wolff gave fascinating scientific presentations which stretched the mind. On the final day we were treated to a talk by Professor John Benyon about Learning and the Ageing Society and the whole conference concluded with a lecture by one of the founding fathers of the U3A movement, Dr. Eric Midwinter who talked about how the U3A had been created.

We put on a display with contributions from U3As in the Region showing some of their activities. It looked very impressive and we heard many favourable comments. I would like to thank all those who contributed items.

There were 23 members of the Region who attended the conference and AGM. For a small Region this is a really good response.

In 2012 there will not be a conference as such but it is envisaged there will be a two day event including the AGM to be held at Cirencester on September 12th and 13th. This will give people a chance to talk to each other, being one of the main values of the conference. There really is a lot to be gained by attending so if your U3A would like to send someone and you don't have a way of generating funds to assist with the cost, start thinking now about having a coffee morning or something similar to raise funds.

John Leiper, Chairman

No rest for Bede of Jarrow

- Our visit to the BBC studios was very educational as well as lots of fun.
- A day trip to Whitby.
- The art section are showing their exhibition at South Shields central library.
- Eleven members spent bank holiday weekend at Cambridge and visited the universities.
- The indoor bowling section have been invited to a friendly competition in October for a trophy in the older peoples festival.

At our September meeting we have a guest speaker all the way from America and his subject is on 'Trust'. We are all looking forward to his talk. It all is very busy and exciting.

Mavis Hudson

Bookings now!



Choral Workshop



Ponteland - Sat March 24th, 2012

Cost for the day - £12.00, based on 40 singers

The music for the Choral Workshop will shortly be available from the tutor, Simon Fidler.

Will all U3As with choral or singing groups or individuals wanting to participate next March please let me know to confirm your interest and the possible number of singers, either by ...

'phone on 01661-825129, or by e-mail at brpandajp@talktalk.net

I am aware that some U3As have already expressed interest, but it would be helpful to have confirmation of numbers.

Brian Prickett

Stars, magnets, fossil tracks and oil

Mo Morgan shares her enthusiasm for the Regional Science Day in Durham

Not for a minute would I suggest that the collisions rigged up to occur in the Large Hadron Collider bear any similarity to the crash in the Tyne Tunnel which made me late for the Science School in Durham in April, but even the lecturer had to admit that they don't really know anything about the dark energy that fills more than half the universe, and if anyone was about to identify that Hick of a Boson particle it could just as well have been the lorry driver, if the energy of his language was anything to go by.

Anyway that CERN contraption hides in a hole about the size of the North Circle Line in the London Tube, and the Tyne Tunnel, well, is just a nano part compared to that.



And what about the Big Bang? What patterns in the sky, what astounding regulations -- and who is going to catch them if the Moon and Stars do it wrong?

And who'd a thought young Anning, Mary, mostly acting quite contrary when searching for her vertyberry, finding all those crocodilleys, would lead us on to finding oil for that old lorry? Or dinosaur tracks?



In opening discarded oil wells, geologists are confidently able from fossil worm holes, which show where gas collects, to discover what was hidden from old oil miners. This makes it worthwhile to risk the outlay involved in drilling again. But maybe not in Northumberland.

A photo on the regional website shows the effect on the drill heads of drilling after two days there, in contrast to normal wear after weeks (left corner in the photo).

What have diamonds got on hard rock in Northumberland?

"Big Event" 2012



The Events Committee have looked hard and long at alternative locations and set ups and the MAJOR problems are -

1. To forecast demand and numbers will present financial restraints
2. To follow the 2007 pattern of many small rooms and no large meeting space, or to have large meeting rooms and few small rooms.

New College Durham could cope with a repeat of 2007 with larger numbers (ie 900+) - provided that "picnic lunch" is ok and we can pay more than last time. (Cost £5,000+)

The Oakwood Centre at Eaglescliffe offers a different set of spaces with the scope to seat up to 700 in one hall/church. It would be cheaper to hire but again it would have to be a picnic lunch. (Cost £2,500-ish)

PLEASE talk at your meetings between now and 26th October and bring your thoughts to the meeting.

John Lloyd, Events Sub Committee Chairman

Sequel to ... After the success of their paperback of wartime memories, 'The Snoring of a Thousand Men', Newcastle U3A members are currently working on a sequel.

This will be 'When the War was over: tales of a mid-century world'. It spans the years 1945 to 1960, and includes the memories about 30 people have of their childhood and youth over parts of those sixteen years. We are including as many pictures as we can to illustrate mid-century lifestyles. As in the wartime memories book there will be tables of the major national and international events occurring at the same times as the tales reported, to enhance the educational value of the book for schools.

Life was very different in many ways from what our grandchildren experience now, but there were plenty of novelties and excitements that didn't need hi-tech gadgets. The 1953 coronation is one example of some people's memories, both live from the Mall and in front of that new thrill, a 9" television set! The new paperback will be published early in the year of the Queen's Diamond Jubilee in celebration of that coronation."

Ruth Lesser



Ponteland goes into a care home!

We have been forging links between our U3A and a local residential Care Home in Ponteland. Residents of the Home are welcome to come to our monthly meeting. We can assist residents who need help, to and from the meeting hall.

In return, we can have free use of the Home's ground-floor lounges for any of our groups. This is a developing relationship which is mutually beneficial to us and the Home's residents.

Following requests from existing and new members, we have established a third Art group. This new group meets regularly in the Care Home. The staff of the Home found us a suitable room and provide the work tables. They are happy about the mess an art group makes. Three residents of the Home have joined U3A and this art group.



Others of the residents drop in to see the work in progress and make valuable comments.

Ponteland holds an annual village event in which most local organizations participate. The 'Party in the Park' is very popular, and our U3A took part again this summer. We showed the flag for the U3A, spoke with potential new members and demonstrated the wide range of activities available in our display. As a result, we have welcomed some of these visitors as new members.

The new term starts shortly, though some activities have continued in the holiday period. We are pleased that the organisation continues to have strong support from the community.

Frank Harrington. Vice-Chairman

Welcome, Hartlepool & District U3A

Since the beginning of June three members of the Regional Development Committee have made several forays into the environs of Hartlepool to promote U3A. We were willingly helped during our four day "patrol" in the large shopping mall by members from Durham, Stockton and Morpeth U3As. Our thanks to them and to Hartlepool Council who provided us with this opportunity.

A meeting with a few local enthusiasts followed and they distributed posters and fliers around the town and the district announcing an Open Start-up meeting on 12th August. It was well attended. Volunteers came forward for a steering committee and as leaders of study groups. Hartlepool & District U3A was on the starting blocks. Joyce Watts (Trustee) and John Leiper (Regional Chairman) attended the first steering committee meeting to give guidance.

Fifty people signed in at the inaugural meeting on 9th September and 40 paid their first subscription of £10. There was a buzz of excitement as new members put their names down for a variety of groups - Photography, Family History, Spanish, Italian and Computing to name only a few of the 10+ proposed. Our grateful thanks to the church members who gave invaluable support.

Joyce McKay (EDC) who had chaired all the meetings gladly handed over to Andrew Mills, the steering committee chairman. We wish him and all new U3Aers at Hartlepool the very best, a vibrant U3A, wonderful opportunities for learning and great fun!

Joyce McKay, Education & Development Contact, Northumbria Region (South)

REGIONAL RESOURCES "CENTRES"

The following equipment is 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

Margaret Minns: 0191 414 3924 is in Whickham, for those in the north

Alnwick U3A

had a very good turnout for their summer outing. Everyone assembled on the quayside at Seahouses for a boat trip around the Farne Islands. We were lucky in as much as it turned out to be a perfect summer's day, very warm, very sunny and a very calm sea.



Once on board, we set sail, and an informative commentary explained about the bird colonies - sadly most of them already departed from the islands - and the seals, which were plentiful and very beautiful both in and out of the water.

And, of course, we enjoyed once more the story of Grace Darling, who saved so many lives when the Forfarshire ran aground so long ago.

On our return it was time for lunch, some for fish and chips and some to the local hostelry for crab sandwiches or crab soup - delicious! A very successful and most enjoyable day.

Nancy Rudd



South Tyneside

Celebrations to mark 10 years since the formation of South Tyneside U3A began in February with a **dinner** in the Sea Hotel. Entertainment was provided between courses by a magician who amazed everyone with his skill as he toured each table in turn.

The main event in July was a **Garden Party** held at Westoe Rugby Club.

Everyone entered into the spirit of things by dressing up for the occasion with hats and finery to grace any royal event.

Entertainment by a **traditional jazz** band was followed by a dance band in the main marquee. A **buffet lunch** and ice cream were provided and the bar was open. Despite the terrible weather forecast the sun came out and a most enjoyable day was had by everyone.

August saw us on an **evening River Picnic**. Sailing up to Newcastle and

back in foul weather. We were unable to venture into the harbour because of the swell but sailing under the Millenium Bridge at Newcastle made up for this. As dusk decended it was a delight to see all the shore lights come on . The party atmosphere was assisted by a fabulous three piece jazz band who entertained us all evening. We all had a great time.

"Fun, Friendship and Learning - a celebration of the work of South Tyneside U3A over the last 10 years" was exhibited in the Stairwell Gallery of South Shields Museum over the summer months. The exhibition was mounted by Mrs Audrey Makepeace, a long standing member of the U3A. The aim was to chart, explain and celebrate the achievements of our local branch. The celebrations will end with a social evening in November.

Eric Makepeace

Wanted

Volunteer Gardeners
at Belsay Hall



Wednesdays & Thursdays

Travelling expenses are paid

Work boots, sweatshirt, gloves, tools, etc
and tea & coffee are provided



Contact Jo on 01661 881636 or Joyce on 01890 840494

Heritage for Prudhoe



Prudhoe & District U3A members have taken advantage of Northumberland Heritage open days and visited Wallington in May, on a rare sunny day, and again in early September enjoyed very informative and interesting tours of Dilston Castle and chapel.

Our newly formed gardening group have enjoyed visits to many gardens this summer, the favourites so far being Whickham Community Garden and Bide-a-wee Cottage Garden. We have Howick Hall and Moorbank Botanic Garden to look forward to in September and October.



We were so lucky to have glorious weather to enjoy all the delights of

our trip to Castle Howard. Everyone had a wonderful day enjoying the gardens, grounds and house. A second visit is definitely on the agenda.

The theatre group particularly enjoyed both "Pitmen Painters" and "Piaf" at the People's Theatre.



There is always a warm welcome for anyone wishing to sample what is on offer at our monthly meetings, with a variety of speakers, on the last Monday of each month (excl. August) and the social afternoons on the second Tuesday of each month. Refreshments are served at both. Come along and make new friends and take up a new hobby!

Patsy Bagnall



Have you read ...

Last Week in December by Sebastian Faulks
Language of Flowers by Vanessa Diffenbaugh

Segedunum, Quayside-to-Countryside Cruise... and fire!

One morning in May we set off from Guisborough to find out more about the Romans who had lived at the eastern end of the 73-mile long Roman Wall. After an enjoyable break for refreshments we arrived at Segedunum (strong fort) and were split into two groups to tour the site. We were able to walk into the reconstructed bath house and to imagine the barracks, granaries and Commander's house. Both groups were full of praise for the very knowledgeable guides who described life at Segedunum so vividly.



Just as we were about to leave we noticed thick black smoke in the distance and wondered whether we would get to the quayside for our afternoon's cruise. We had a firsthand view of that night's first item on the local news - the fire in the scrapyards.

Thanks to our excellent driver we did make it, and after lunch set off on a relaxing 2-hour cruise up the River Tyne as far as Ryton Willows, still full of history but in complete contrast to the industrial landscape we had seen on a previous visit on the Quay-to-Sea cruise.

Margaret Wallen

For your diary

Southern Tyneside Older Person's Festival 1st to 31st October, 2011 'Come and Join the Celebration'

This is the first Older People's Festival in South Tyneside and it aims to highlight the positives about becoming older in the area. It will give older people the opportunity to join in a range of old and new activities and events, as well as highlight their many achievements within their local communities.

There are a whole range of activities to take part in. **Most are free but there are a few at the cost of £1.** There are also trips at a very reasonable cost.

A hint of what there is on offer:

Talks, walking, Computer Taster Sessions, Health Advice.

There is a **booklet planner** which can be obtained from Libraries, Kelly House Reception, Hebburn, South Shields & Jarrow, Town Hall Reception, Ingham House Reception and Age Concern Reception South Shields. Or you can ring 0191 424 4636 or email on OlderPeopleEnquiries@stpct.nhs.uk.

There will also be an **Art Exhibition by our very own Bede and Jarrow U3A** for the whole of October. Please do go and support them.

Your Development Sub Committee will have a stand on the 3rd October and would be glad of members helping us by handing out a few leaflets and spreading the good word of the U3A.

Joyce Watts, Regional Trustee

More thoughts on the reason for being a U3A ..

I was most interested in the article from Brian Stephenson of Morpeth U3A. He wrote of the direction the U3A was taking, he seems to think that the development of the movement is drifting away from learning and he wants more people to get in involved or as he puts it stop 'sitting on their backsides'.

Well it fired me up reading his outspoken words. In reply to Brian, I would like to say that since Bede of Jarrow section was born in 2007 of which I am a founder member I have discovered more about people. Most of our members are professional people ranging from sales assistants, nurses, doctors, solicitors, teachers, headmasters, dentists, architects, writers, sea captains, even the clergy, to mention a few. All of these people have been to school, learned their trade, taught and lectured all their life. We are all now in the twilight of our years most of us are widowed and bereft, but thanks to the U3A we have now a new meaning in life new found friends with lots in common. I know a lot of members like myself who have had heart bypasses and heart disease and even more serious complaints and problems who have joined to enjoy the company of others and befriend each as every day is a bonus to us.

Is this not a lesson in itself? It is psychology, I have seen people change dramatically, recover from depression and smile again. I learn something every day. I run the art classes and I have seen the confidence grow in members who had never painted a picture in their life and the pride in their faces. Money can't buy the satisfaction that I get from that. Apart from the twice yearly exhibitions we have and all the sculpture that has been created. Learning about life and people is as educational as any other subject and very enjoyable. I am proud to say that a young lady named Sarah Gribbon has just finished a degree on adult learning, her dissertation was based on our branch of the U3A of which I am proud to say she was so impressed at our achievements. I myself graduated in 2007 at the age of 67 but I am still learning and like all our section leaders all of whom do a sterling job passing their skills on. We do want to make the best of our lives while we still have a life.

Mavis Hudson, Bede of Jarrow

Trustee's Report October 2011

The NEC are encouraging Regions and individual U3As to concentrate on Thirtieth Anniversary Celebrations for next year. The Region has been thinking about this for quite a while now and is in the capable hands of John Lloyd and the Events Sub Committee. We are however having some difficulty in finding a venue. I hope individual U3As will also take the opportunity to celebrate. It will be interesting to see who comes up with the most innovative way of celebrating.

Model Constitution – watch this space. Lin Jonas has put forward yet another version but when put to the Trustees there were some comments, so it is back to the drawing board I am afraid.

We now have two new U3As in the region, Hartlepool and District and Consett and District. We would like to welcome them and hope that they will take an active part in our region. Judging from the meetings I have been to they are very keen and I feel sure they will prosper. I would like to thank the members of the neighbouring U3As who came and supported us and gave a huge amount of encouragement to people who had possibly not even heard of the U3A before. This makes 43 U3As in the Region.

We are having a stand at South Tyneside Older People's Festival on 3rd October at Temple Park Leisure Centre from 10 a.m. – 3 p.m. There seems to be a need for another U3A in the Boldon area and this will be a good opportunity to collect names and tell people about the U3A. If anyone is interested in joining us, handing out some folders and spreading the word we would be grateful. The Festival is on for a month and Bede and Jarrow will have an art exhibition at Boldon CA so please go along and support them. There will be a Festival Guide coming out at the end of August and this can be downloaded. There will be excellent free opportunities available throughout the month so if you have any spare time get along to the Leisure Centre (see separate article).

About eight members have been to Belsay Hall over the last few weeks working on an SLP in conjunction with English Heritage. We are all very excited because what we are doing maybe used elsewhere on EH sites and also it may follow on to a larger project with them in the future. We are hoping to compile a brochure of the Granite Garden with information about what plants and flowers to look at in the different seasons. This hopefully will encourage visitors to come back to the gardens more often. Group leaders may know that there is free entry to EH sites for U3A members if you apply to the site you are interested in. I feel that by us working with the EH we not only spread the U3A name but are helping EH as well.

I would just like to mention that English Heritage have a volunteer scheme where you can help in the gardens for as long or as little as you like. They supply boots, sweatshirt, gloves, tools (and give tea and biscuits!) This might be something members would like to do who have had to downsize to a smaller property, possibly with no garden and who are missing the benefits the exercise and fresh air gives. What better garden to work in than Belsay Hall!

Thank you to all the U3As who have sent in interesting articles and pictures of what they are doing in their groups. John and I are busy organising them on boards for presentation at the Conference and AGM and it looks as if we will have a good display.

Joyce Watts, Regional Trustee

Come and find out about

Wessington U3A
Monday 21st November 2011

Arts Centre Washington
11 am

also -

Visit our exhibition

"Set in Stone"

telling the stories of local people remembered on
Harraton, Usworth and Washington War Memorials which runs from

Tuesday 8th November-Friday 25th November 2011

"Lest we forget"



10

South Durham reaches double figures

This year, 2011, is the 10th anniversary of the South Durham branch. We celebrated with a luncheon party at Maxine's in Darlington with a trio playing music in the background.

An exhibition was put together by some of the groups who had photographs of outings etc. The photography group, the walking group, the discoverers, the readers, the local history, the family history, the bridge group, the bezique and canasta groups all contributed.

We had a very nice buffet lunch and Sandy Hood gave us a talk about how our branch came into existence.

Sylvia Elliott

Advance Notice!

Literary Lunch 2012

hosted by **Wearside U3A**



at **Lumley Castle, Chester-le-Street**

on **Tuesday April 24th**

Speaker: Ann Cleeves

author of the recently televised series starring DI Vera Stanhope

Details still to be finalised.

Contact is Gwen Dawe at Wearside U3A

This page comes at the request of members who find it difficult to find speakers for their meetings.

Many of those listed cover a small area within the region. Good speakers can be quite rare – so do share your finds with the rest of us. Details to the editor please. (Deadline & contact details on page 20)



Recommended Speakers:

We have had a very varied selection of speakers in recent months!

Our members were tutored on the delights of **Champagne & Burgundy by Helen Savage**. The pouring of the wine was accomplished without any difficulties - in spite of fifty tasters!

Having spent her life in **horticulture, Mrs. Wardrobe** passed on a few tips to our gardening enthusiasts in May.

The National Parks featured in our programme too. I would think that all our branches should have a look at this topic - if they have not already done so - as there are many issues to produce a lively debate among members.

In August we had a presentation called **'Herring Girls and Hiring Fairs'** by **Mrs. Brooke** - I would urge Programme Secretaries to invite her to hear about a very important part of NE fishing history.

In October our visiting speaker, **Mr. G. Hughes**, has as his topic **'The Sea in Our Lives'** - an appropriate follow-up to Fish!

for details of the above contact Ken Kay, Chair, Cestria U3A

- | | |
|-----------------|---|
| Aline Shepherd | Talk 'Burma' x 2
46 Darras Road Darras Hall Ponteland Tel: 01661 821602. |
| Rev M Parker | 53 Devonshire Road Belmont Durham DH1 2BJ (No details) |
| Norman Kirtland | 'Forensic Art, photography and others' Tel: 0191 4168840 |
| Tony Nicholson | Lots of talks. (Twice and being asked back. Tel: 01287 676813 |
| John Morels | 'Nostalgic Views of The North' Tel: 0191 3867297 |
| Robert Cooper | 'Holy Island' and 'Song of the Tees' Tel: 01740 630015 |
| Angela Rhoades | 'Pearls'
586 Yarm Road Eaglescliffe Stockton-on-Tees TS16 0DF |
| Norman Dunn | 'Music Hall' and other talks Tel: 01670 736178 |
| Colin Armitage | Highly recommended by friend. Tel: 0191 5871743. |

REGIONAL MEETING : WEDNESDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2011

The next Third Age Trust funded meeting will be held in The Memorial Hall, Ponteland on the 17th November. The speakers will be Elizabeth Gibson from the Resource Centre at National Office and Francis Beckett, Editor of the U3A News. Bookings should be sent to Barbara Herring barbara@sdlit.co.uk as soon possible. (In addition to October meeting)

Washington Heritage Day at F Pit Saturday 17th September 2011



Despite the fact that Councillor Kelly, the driving force behind the Heritage Day, failed to keep his promise to deliver a totally warm dry day the event was a great success; more exhibitors and more visitors than last year. Mr Cameron speaks of the Big Society - judging by this event it's alive and well and living in Washington.

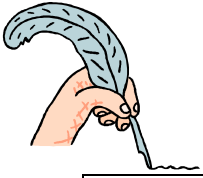
Wessington U3A was well represented, 13 members manning and "womaning" an area in the marquee shared with the World War I Field Kitchen group. Our display was divided into three parts - a display board and banner showing the range of Wessington U3A activities, a bicycle leaning nonchalantly against the marquee to represent the cycling group and Sustrans and a larger display from the War Memorials Group. "Meeters and Greeters" did just that and worked hard to encourage visitors to become new members.

Of the 13 members attending, 3 were mostly involved with the War Memorials display, "Set in Stone." This is an ongoing research project into the names on the Washington, Harraton and Usworth War Memorials. There are 11 folders of information about World War I casualties with photographs of the men and their graves, family and service details plus statistics based on our findings so far. The intention is to eventually move on to the names of WW II casualties and the casualties from other, more recent, conflicts recorded on the three memorials.

One of the U3A members dressed as Mrs O'Neill, mother of James O'Neill, She told the story of how he was allowed home in 1917 because his wife was due to give birth. Sergeant O'Neill was killed, along with his father in law, by a bus on Durham Rd, Birtley, while returning home from the pub. The two men are buried in Birtley's Roman Catholic churchyard. Three of her sons were killed on the Western Front. Amazingly, one of the people who stopped to look at the display is directly related to the O'Neills and has offered us the opportunity to look at family photographs and ephemera.

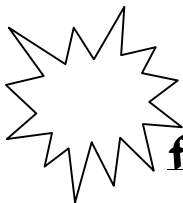
This single encounter made the exhibition worthwhile but it was only one of several valuable contacts that were made on the day. Without the U3A none of this would have happened.

Margaret Welsh



Dates for your diary

Thursday, 29th September	Alnwick Castle, Garden & Workshop event
Wednesday 26th October	Regional General Meeting, Angel View Inn, Gateshead, 9.45 for 10.15am
1st to 31st October	Older Person's Festival, South Tyneside (See page 10)
Thursday, 3rd November	Mini Medical Day, Centre for Life, N'castle (Fully booked)
8th - 25th November	"Set in Stone", Washington (See page 13)
Thursday, 17th November	Regional Meeting with 3rd Age Trust in Ponteland Speakers: Francis Beckett and Elizabeth Gibson (Pg 15)
Monday 21st November	Wessington special monthly meeting ("Set in Stone" Pg 13)
Thursday, 8th December	Georgian Theatre, Richmond exclusive show for U3A
Saturday 10th December	Deadline for entries for January's Northumbria Messenger
2012	
Wed. 25th January, 2012	Regional General Meeting, Angel View Inn, Gateshead 9.45 for 10.15am
Saturday, 24th March 2012	Regional Choral Workshop (See page 4)
Tuesday 24th April	Literary Lunch at Lumley Castle (See page 13)
12th & 13th Sept 2010	National AGM, Cirencester. Details later



Final copy date
for the next edition of The Northumbria Messenger is
Saturday 10th December 2011

Please send to Sandy Hood at email: regnewseditor@gmail.com

snail mail: 4 Glenfield Road, Darlington DL3 8DZ

tel. 01325 384496



For copies of this publication, photographs of some events and other regional information visit the Northumbria Region website www.nru3a.co.uk