

GUISBOROUGH U3A NEWSHEET No. 22 – FEBRUARY 2024

Next monthly meeting 2pm, 6 March 2024, at the Parish Hall, Bow Street.
Doors open 1.30pm. Meeting begins at 2pm.

Chair's Introduction

Thanks to Prof. David Ferguson for giving us a vision of childhood life in Park Lane in the 1940's at our February monthly meeting. I still have a vision of David sitting in Middlesbrough Road writing down car number plates. What we did before the internet?

At next month's meeting, Redcar & Cleveland Officers and consultancy staff working on the Guisborough "Levelling Up" programme will be consulting us as residents and users of Westgate/centre of the town and seeking Members' views, particularly around accessibility/access. We are told this should be a fairly informal session and will give folk the opportunity to provide input, ask questions and give their views. Depending on the level of interest and questions, the meeting may last a little longer than usual.

You will be aware that a few of our groups have had to close over the last year or so. So it's good news that (as you'll read below) we have suggestions for several new groups within the GU3A. Please contact the leaders directly if you have an interest. We are fortunate that our financial position is strong enough to let these groups run for a period to gauge true interest.

Reminder that advance membership renewal is now taking place. I would say get in early to avoid the rush, but there was still quite a queue at the membership table this week.

Dave, Chair.

MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL REMINDER - SALTBURN DISTRICT u3a

New arrangements with Saltburn u3a, following the demise of reciprocal agreement.

The reduction from £7 to £5 membership fee to join the other u3a is a joint agreement. You will need proof of your £10 membership with Guisborough (or Saltburn) u3a for 2024, first.

John, Membership Secretary

SITUATION VACANT

After many years, Rod Cuff has stepped aside as the Website Assistant. Thank you very much Rod for your many years of support and all you have done. I well remember the presentation you gave at the monthly meeting when the website was last updated – clear, to the point and understandable.

Many u3as use the same database as us and it's being updated centrally this year. Full training will be provided during the next few months. Ray, Committee Member and Website Manager, would like someone(s) to assist him, please, not least to cover for holidays etc. If you'd like to know more about this interesting project, please contact Ray.

GROUP COORDINATORS – SUNNYFIELD HOUSE BOOKINGS - UPDATE:

While booking Sunnyfield House rooms for 2024, Edna has been informed:

“With effect from the 1st April 2024, customers will not be able to access the room hired earlier than the time stated on the booking confirmation and must vacate the room no later than the end time stated. No grace period will be allowed before or after the booking. Please take this into consideration when making a booking.”

We have been advised that if the room is empty, you may go in a few minutes beforehand. However, if you need additional time to tidy up after your group activity, you may need to book the room for an extra half hour (minimum time), allowing 15 mins before and afterwards. If you have any concerns, please contact Edna, Venues and Accommodation Coordinator.

NEW GROUPS:

French Conversation. I recently moved to Guisborough from Whitby where, for many years, I have organised a French conversation group and in fact continue to do so. The group meets every two weeks with the six members taking turns to host the session and to provide coffee and cakes. There is just one rule which is that all communication must be in French. We spend an hour and a half to two hours discussing whatever topics happen to come up in conversation and the group seems to work very well.

There is no formal “teaching” as we all have a reasonable level of French which allows the conversation to flow reasonably freely; if anyone gets stuck, another member can usually help out. I am hoping to establish a similar group in Guisborough and would be keen to hear from anyone who feels that they have an appropriate level of French and who would like to give such a group a try. Please note that this will not be a beginners’ group but is aimed at people who can speak French reasonably well and want the opportunity to have regular practice of speaking the language. Malcolm Mercer. *Please contact Pauline, Groups Coordinator to register your interest.*

Cycling. I am a keen cyclist and eager to meet up with anyone who might be interested in joining me for local rides. My annual cycling distance is usually over 3,000 miles, mostly around the North York Moors and my typical ride distance is from 20 miles minimum to 60 miles maximum with an average speed of around 10 mph depending on the terrain and the weather. If you are interested in joining me for a trial outing, please let me know. Malcolm Mercer. *Please contact Pauline, Groups Coordinator to register your interest.*

Table Tennis. We heard how much fun another senior group was having playing Table Tennis at the Parish Hall, so thought ‘ why not our Members, too’? There are three new Table Tennis tables belonging to St Nichloas Church Youth Group which we have permission, in principle, to use. We may also use their nets, bats and balls which is very kind.

We can have gentle games or more energetic – it’s up to you. Possible options are: Wednesday or Thursday, 10-11.00/11.30am; or Friday 10.30-11.30/12 noon. And would you like to play weekly or fortnightly? If you’d like to learn, try it a couple of times or take up Table Tennis again, to register your interest (without obligation) please let me know. Ed.

Lino cutting/printing. If you’d like to try your hand, or return to Lino cutting and printing, please get in touch. It’s absorbing, therapeutic, rewarding (when it goes right!) and creative. You’ll develop your own style and it’s something you can work on at home if you wish. Meetings will be on the 3rd Fridays, 10-11.30am at Sunnyfield House. Everything will be provided free for the first meeting, at which you’ll receive details of suppliers etc. To register your interest (without obligation) please let me know. Ed.

What’s on?

14 February. Saltburn u3a Local History group. Marjorie Kirke will be telling us, “The history of knives, forks, spoons and table etiquette.” This is a light hearted talk for Valentine’s Day, and one of Marjorie’s new talks. Guisborough u3a members are welcome to attend and there’s no need to book. Saltburn Methodist Church upstairs hall, Milton Street. £2. Just turn up and enjoy the talk, a coffee and the opportunity to chat with Marjorie afterwards.

6 March. Monthly Meeting. At the Parish Hall in Bow Street, 2pm. Doors open at 1.30pm. As Dave says above, the Levelling up Funding RCBC Officers and Consultants are coming to talk to us and seek our views. Please don’t miss this exclusive opportunity to contribute to spending the £17.2m awarded to Guisborough by the government. Further information can be found at:

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/developing-the-borough/levelling-up-fund>

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EXCURSIONS:

Thursday 14th March. York’s Chocolate Story and York. Cost £30. Booking opens at January meeting. Join us to find out how chocolate is made. Unwrap the secrets of York’s most famous brands. Learn to taste

chocolate like an expert. Marvel at the skills of the professional chocolatiers. The visit includes a tour which ends with a hands on chocolate experience crafting and personalising your own chocolate lolly before watching a demonstration from one of the chocolatiers. The coach will depart Fountain Street car park at 9am and thereafter St Paulinus The Avenue. On arrival in York we will walk to the venue from the memorial gardens. Following the visit there will be time in York to get lunch and shop. The coach will depart from the memorial gardens at 3.30pm. Booking continues on 7 February, at the Monthly meeting. Now fully booked. To be added to the waiting list please contact the excursion coordinator Pauline on 01287 610690.

STOP PRESS: due to the provision of a larger coach two seats are currently available to book on a travel only basis with no visit to Chocolate Story. Cost £10. Please contact Pauline if you wish to book.

Thursday 18th April Bowes Museum and Barnard Castle. Cost £28.00. An experienced guide will explain the story of the museum founders and its history whilst touring the museum and highlighting favourite pieces in the collection. The tours will principally visit galleries on the 1st Floor and the three European Picture Galleries on the second floor where **The Swan** is to be found. (It is hoped that The Swan will be working at the time of our visit). After spending time in the museum you can walk in the parkland or stroll into Barnard Castle to enjoy the antique shops and cafes, although there is a cafe at the museum. Coach leaves Fountain Street car park at 9.30am and thereafter St Paulinus, The Avenue. Return journey will depart at 3pm. For enquiries please contact Moira Stokoe.

Thursday, 16th May. Proposed excursion to **Ripon's three museums**. Full details will be published on the website when confirmed and available at next month's meeting when booking will commence.

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[FRIENDS OF GUISBOROUGH LIBRARY NEWSLETTER \(extracts\)](#) 19.1.24

### **CHRISTMAS QUIZ**

The quiz we held in December was very successful and everyone who joined in had a fun afternoon and enjoyed some Christmas refreshments. We were very pleased to welcome Guisborough Council Mayor David Johnson, whose team came second. **Friends of Guisborough Library is one of his chosen charities** for his year in office and it was good that he was able to join in one of our activities and could put some faces to names.

### **TALKS**

On Friday **February 23rd** Avril Taylor is coming to talk to us about **Crime and Punishment in Tudor England**. Journey back in time to the 16th century when the Tudors turned England upside down, changing lives and faith.

**Friday, 26 April**, a talk about Gisborough Priory's Hidden Treasures, by Christine Clarke.

All talks are from **2–3pm** and there is a **£3 entrance fee which includes refreshments**. Just come along, no need to book.

### **CRAFTS**

You do need to **book at the library as numbers are limited to 12**. Either pop into the library or ring them on 01287 632668 to book your place.

Saturday **March 9<sup>th</sup> 10am – 12 noon** when you will be able to paint a pottery bowl in the shape of a cracked egg. This session will be run by Sam of Buttercup Pottery. It is free and all materials will be supplied, *but there will be a cost for the bowl of a few pounds*. Your bowl will be taken away to be fired and you'll be able to collect it from the library about a week later. For the price of the bowl, please see the poster in the library, nearer the time.

**INTRODUCING...**We are very pleased to welcome a new FoGL committee member, **Charlie Bear**. He will be appearing on our Facebook page, but will also sometimes be in the library, so do keep a lookout for him. A bit of fun which will hopefully entice children into the library. He'll probably be getting into mischief !

**JIGSAW LIBRARY**

Our jigsaw library goes from strength to strength with about 300 puzzles to choose from. If you enjoy jigsaws do call in, we're sure you'll find one you fancy doing.

**FACEBOOK**

If you use Facebook, please 'like' the Friends of Guisborough Library page. We share information about our activities, and it is a way for you to communicate with us if you have a suggestion for an activity or want to check something. If you see our posts please like them as that helps to keep our information visible to as many people as possible. Alternatively, to keep in touch, email us [friendsofguisboroughlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofguisboroughlibrary@gmail.com) or call in to the library and leave us a message. Thank you in advance.

**WARM SPACE**

Remember that as well as the many services that you can access in the library, it is also a warm space where you can come to sit, relax, browse the books and magazines, and get a free warm drink.

Details of all our activities are on the FoGL notice board which is to the left of the desk as you get into the library.

We hope to see you at a talk or craft session soon. Hannah and Kate

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WALKING POLES SEEK NEW HOME

Jenny has a pair of walking poles she no longer uses. If anybody would like them, please contact Jenny.

GREEN WASTE BIN COLLECTIONS – REDCAR & CLEVELAND BOROUGH COUNCIL

From April 2024, all garden waste collections will require a subscription to enable a fortnightly collection between April and November each year.

This is an 'opt-in' service, which will cost £40 in 2024. If you don't sign up and opt-in, your garden waste won't be collected. At the Neighbourhood Action Partnership meeting February, we were told stickers would be distributed for those who had opted-in and paid and there was gadget in the cab that could be used to verify this.

To sign up for your green waste bin collection.

<https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/bins-and-waste-services/garden-waste/garden-waste-collections>

To pay: <https://www.redcar-cleveland.gov.uk/pay/pay-for-it>

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LIBRARY CONSULTATION ENDS 16.2.24

Consultation about the future of our libraries ends on 16 February – there's still time to give your views. Survey forms are available from Sunnyfield House, the Library or online.

Sign up for Redcar & Cleveland's new Residents' Newsletter – a monthly email update for the community.

<https://mailchi.mp/redcar-cleveland/this-is-redcar-cleveland-issue-1-january-2024?fbclid=IwAR0ruFD1pm6V4uR0II7KBLhn71T2HnqIHr2EvFI-aF147KZHpl8B0mqYNQU>

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From **Claire Bognar** 10.1.24  
**Community Development Officer – Belmont, Guisborough, Hutton & Lockwood**  
**Public Health South Tees**





The January 2024 edition of OUR NEWS is here

Here are some highlights in January's edition:

Protect your Pa\$\$w0rds - password protection in three easy steps

ERA's experts offer guidance on how to pick the best home security system for you

Hear from Neighbourhood Watch members who supported us while playing the lottery, and won BIG prizes

[READ THE JANUARY NEWSLETTER HERE.](#)



**Northumbria u3a Region. Messenger Magazine,** January 2024

<file:///C:/Users/User/Downloads/Messenger%20Jan2024.pdf>

**National u3a Newsletter** <https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter>

**National u3a online Learning and Talks** - fascinating and interesting online events. Learn and explore the world from home: <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events>

## Interested in Crafting?

[Join the Craft u3a Facebook group](#), facilitated by Subject Adviser Kelly Benton, where u3a groups share what crafts they have been up to.

## Interested in Puzzles?

There is a huge back catalogue of monthly logic puzzles available to you on the u3a website. Why not fill a quiet afternoon with a cup of tea and [the u3a logic puzzles](#).

**[u3a Festival 24](#)**

The first ever national u3a Festival is taking place **17-19 July 2024** at the University of York. It's an opportunity to bring members together to celebrate the joy of u3a membership. Find out more about the festival on [the u3a website](#) I understand the accommodation is already fully booked, but happily we're close enough to visit York for the day – please check and book events in advance, as necessary. Ed.

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**Deadline for the next Newsheet is 1/3/24. Pam.**