

GUISBOROUGH u3a NEWSHEET No. 42 – DECEMBER 2025

Next monthly meeting 2pm, 7 January 2025, at the Parish Hall, Bow Street.

Doors open 1.30pm. Meeting begins at 2pm.

The Hobby Band will be playing with a guest appearance from the wonderful Middle Eastern Dancers.

CHAIR'S INTRODUCTION

The last meeting of 2025 was particularly joyous with the Singing for Pleasure group entertaining us with Carols and Christmas songs, accompanied by Christmas cake, Wensleydale Cheese and fizz! A wonderful way to start Christmas festivities.

Thank you to everyone who works tirelessly behind the scenes to make Guisborough u3a such a success from Group Co-ordinators to all the volunteers who help with greeting members and making teas at our meetings, the membership team and the committee who support all our activities.

I hope you all have a Happy and Peaceful Christmas and Very Best Wishes for 2006.

Moira, Chair



SITUATIONS BECOMING VACANT:

NEWSHEET

Our monthly newsletter is available by email or hard copy to our members. Pam Rayment has compiled and edited this for the last few years. Due to other commitments Pam is unable to continue doing this from the end of this year.

We're looking for a volunteer or group of volunteers to take on the role of newsletter editor. You don't have to be a member of the committee to do this. If you think you can help, please speak to Pam - it would be awful if this valuable communication fails due to lack of support.

TREASURER – FUTURE VACANCY

Brian Coulston is our treasurer and does a great job ensuring our accounts are in order. He will be coming to the end of his six-year term in office in May 2026. If there is anyone who has the skills and experience to take on this role, please speak to Brian. We're mentioning this now as it gives you the chance to shadow Brian and understand what is involved in the role.

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What's on?

Free car parking!! after 1pm during December. Look for the yellow sticker on the ticket machine. If the yellow sticker isn't displayed, free parking won't apply in that carpark. Please don't get caught out. Ed.

7 January. Monthly meeting. 2pm, at the Parish Hall, Bow Street. Doors open 1.30pm. Meeting begins at 2pm. The Hobby Band will be playing to give us a great start to the new year and the wonderful Middle Eastern Dancers will be performing. There'll also be a couple of other things to add to the fun. Pam.

12 January. Book Club 2 – see below. *** The first meeting of this new group will be on 12 January. If you're interested in finding out more and would like to come along to discuss it, you'll be very welcome.

13 January. Flower Arranging group. We'll discuss next year's programme at our December meeting, with the aim of working on a range of styles and techniques during the year. If you'd like to join us to try your hand, or see what we're creating, you'll be very welcome. Perhaps enjoy a cup of tea and a chat? Details from Pam.

And check out the links at the end of this Newsheet, including:

Lots of free online activities and talks.

Have a look at the Northumbria Region u3a website.

Offers through u3a Friends arranged by "central u3a".

Change the way you see the world with *HX Hurtigruten Expeditions (with a discount) and discounted Friends Extras.*

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Potential new groups:

Book Club 2***

My name is Elaine. I recently moved to Guisborough and joined Guisborough u3a, however I was an active member in the u3a where I lived previously.

In view of the current book group numbers and small waiting list I would like to offer my time to facilitate a second group.

Here is my proposal:

Venue: Sunnyfield House or similar venue if no room availability

Frequency: 2nd Monday of each month,

Time: 2pm (negotiable) for 1hour

Group size: 10 members maximum, in order to have sufficient time for discussion.

The ethos of the group would be to meet in a comfortable, safe space, to have time to discuss and discover books from various genres.

In terms of the format, each member would be asked to choose a book of his/her choice, read and feedback at the next meeting. It would be up to the member to choose their method of reading ie: kindle/tablet or paper copy. Please contact Elaine to register your interest.

Vic Shadforth is interested in starting two new groups - Photography and Current Affairs/Economics.

To register your interest please contact Vic.

Photography Group.

Taking photos with everything from Full Frame Camera through to compact camera through to Iphone.

Editing photos using Luminar Neo on a Mac through to Snapseed on an Ipad. Snapseed is very powerful, easy to use and best of all free.

Possibly meet at a venue in Guisborough to talk- edit- learn and/or meetup somewhere to take photos.

Envisage a friendly no pressure group.

Current Affairs/Economics.

Meet at a venue in Guisborough to discuss current affairs, much of which is dominated by the economy. Envisage a friendly no pressure group.

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## **EXCURSIONS:**

*Booking for both **Beyond the Barricade** and **Kynren** opens at our January meeting.*

**Wednesday 25th March. Beyond the Barricade at Billingham Forum** (evening performance). Cost £40.00. This is the UK's longest running musical theatre concert and features 2 hours of music from the West End and Broadway, including music from Phantom of the Opera, Lion King, West Side Story, Miss Saigon, Blood Brothers and ends with a spectacular finale from Les Miserables. The coach will depart Fountain Street carpark at 6pm and thereafter St Paulinus, The Avenue. For queries please contact Pauline Warrington on 07855 751869.

**Saturday 15 August 2026.** We are planning a visit to **Kynren** at Bishop Auckland, leaving Guisborough at 17:30pm. Expected cost £60. Kynren is an epic outdoor theatre spectacle taking audiences through iconic moments from England's past – from Boudicca's battles with the Romans to Vikings, Tudors and the fate of Charles I. With a cast and crew of 1,000 on a breathtaking 7.5 acre stage, you'll see awe-inspiring stunts, incredible horsemanship, dazzling pyrotechnics and jaw-dropping special effects. **To secure your ticket we require a £20 non-refundable deposit at the Monthly Meeting on 7 January.**

*Please visit the "Events" tab on <https://guisborough.u3asite.uk/events/>*

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**Friends of Guisborough Library November Newsletter** – extracts:

### **LIBRARY REFURBISHMENT UPDATE**

At long last after many delays, it does seem that the library refurbishment is going to happen. It is scheduled to close at Christmas and will not be re-opening until all the work has been completed, which we anticipate will be in May.

**This means that from January 2026 all the Friends of Guisborough Library events will be held in Sunnyfield House until further notice.**

Some information, in case you weren't aware - borrowers can use their card at any library in Redcar & Cleveland, so that is one option for you whilst the library is closed. In addition, it is hoped that there will be somewhere in town that will be open for one or two days a week for you to be able to collect and return books and jigsaws. We will let you know the details when we are told.

Also, did you know that Redcar & Cleveland Council offers a Home Library Service? For more information about this, including the criteria required to qualify for this, you can contact the team by either email - [health-wellbeing-libraries@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk](mailto:health-wellbeing-libraries@redcar-cleveland.gov.uk) or by phone on 07909-906324

### **CRAFT SESSIONS**

We've finished our craft sessions for this year and are pleased to report that they have been very successful. Many thanks to Pauline and Teresa for all the effort they have put into arranging and running them. Starting in the new year, they will be reducing the number of sessions that they arrange and we will be offering some simple 'drop in' craft sessions when the library re-opens. If you are interested in helping at, or even running, one of these drop in sessions, or just want to find out more, please let us know by emailing [friendsofguisboroughlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofguisboroughlibrary@gmail.com) Many thanks.

**Our first craft session for 2026 will be on Saturday, 14 February, 10 - 12.30 in Sunnyfield House**, when Carol Longley-Cook will be teaching us how to make temari balls. Temari are Japanese hand-made fabric balls decorated with brightly coloured threads. Carol will use polystyrene balls as it is quite difficult to make the cloth ones. The session is free and all materials will be supplied. You need to register by emailing [friendsofguisboroughlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofguisboroughlibrary@gmail.com)

We aim to be as inclusive as possible so you don't need to have any prior experience, and in general our sessions are free with all materials supplied. However, we sometimes like to offer something a bit different and on these occasions there may be a small charge, which we will advise you of in advance.

### **TALKS**

As we mentioned in our last Newsletter, we are looking for someone to take over arranging / co-ordinating our talks. Shelagh, our Chair, is arranging the first three for next year but if you are interested in helping or just finding out more, please e-mail [friendsofguisboroughlibrary@gmail.com](mailto:friendsofguisboroughlibrary@gmail.com) and we will be in touch to tell you what is involved.

**On Friday, 30 January from 2 - 3pm in Sunnyfield House**

**Amy Gibson**, who has worked in costume and wardrobe departments on a number of well known and loved productions, will be talking about the **Costumes for the television series, All Creatures Great and Small.**

**On Friday. 27 February from 2 - 3pm in Sunnyfield House,**  
**David Cocks** will be talking about the RNLI, "**With Courage Nothing Is Impossible – 3 centuries of the RNLI**". Dave tells the story of the RNLI from its birth in 1824 to the modern day, and of the man whose vision brought the charity into existence.

**There is a £3 entrance fee for all our talks, which includes refreshments. No need to book, just come along. Everyone is very welcome.**

**Hazel's KNIT & NATTER** will be held every two weeks from **7th January 2026 between 10am-12 noon in The Bistro in Sunnyfield House**. There will be a £2.00 charge to cover the cost of the room hire and refreshments. Hazel will make you very welcome, so do go along and enjoy knitting and nattering!

**JIGSAW LIBRARY.** This continues to thrive and do remember that you can borrow more than one at a time.

On behalf of all the Friends of Guisborough Library Committee members, we wish you a happy Christmas and a healthy 2026 and, as ever, we hope to see you at one or more of our events.

Hannah and Kate, Joint Membership Secretaries



### **FAMILY HISTORY**

Are you interested in tracing your family history but finding it a bit daunting? Janis Mahoney volunteers at the Library and is willing to help u3a members with their searches while it is closed. Janis has researched family histories for many years and knows her way around the various websites. You may contact Janis via Pam.



### **MISSING TREE LIGHTS ON WESTGATE.**

I'm reliably informed that there are good reasons for the missing tree lights on Westgate this year. In summer, higher vehicles owned by members of the public were observed dragging lights out of trees as their vehicles left the cobbles. When some trees had arboreal work in autumn to lift crowns etc, the lights had to be removed for safety reasons. Further work in some areas will be undertaken under the Levelling Up Funding programme next year so there is no point in wasting money by paying for the lights to be reinstated now. There will be tree lighting for Christmas 2026. Ed.



<https://www.clevelandconnected.co.uk/>

Lots of information about crime and protection. Too much to repeat in this Newsheet, so please visit their website. Ed.

Including:

## **Have Your Say on Police Funding**

We are currently running a public consultation, and we would like to hear from you about what you are willing to pay towards the cost of policing in your community next year.

Of the £203 million we currently spend on Policing and Crime in Cleveland, £53m comes from your Council Tax payments. The vast majority of the remaining £150m comes from the Government



