

## GUISBOROUGH u3a NEWSLETTER No. 52 – OCTOBER 2026

### Welcome

It was wonderful to see so many members at our last monthly meeting. Stella Barnard gave an interesting and informative talk about the role of the North York Moors National Park. She also pointed us to the North York Moors website which has information about walks and accessibility. More details can be found later in the newsletter.

We're starting to plan for 2027 and if you have any ideas for speakers, please let us know.

**Moir, Chair**

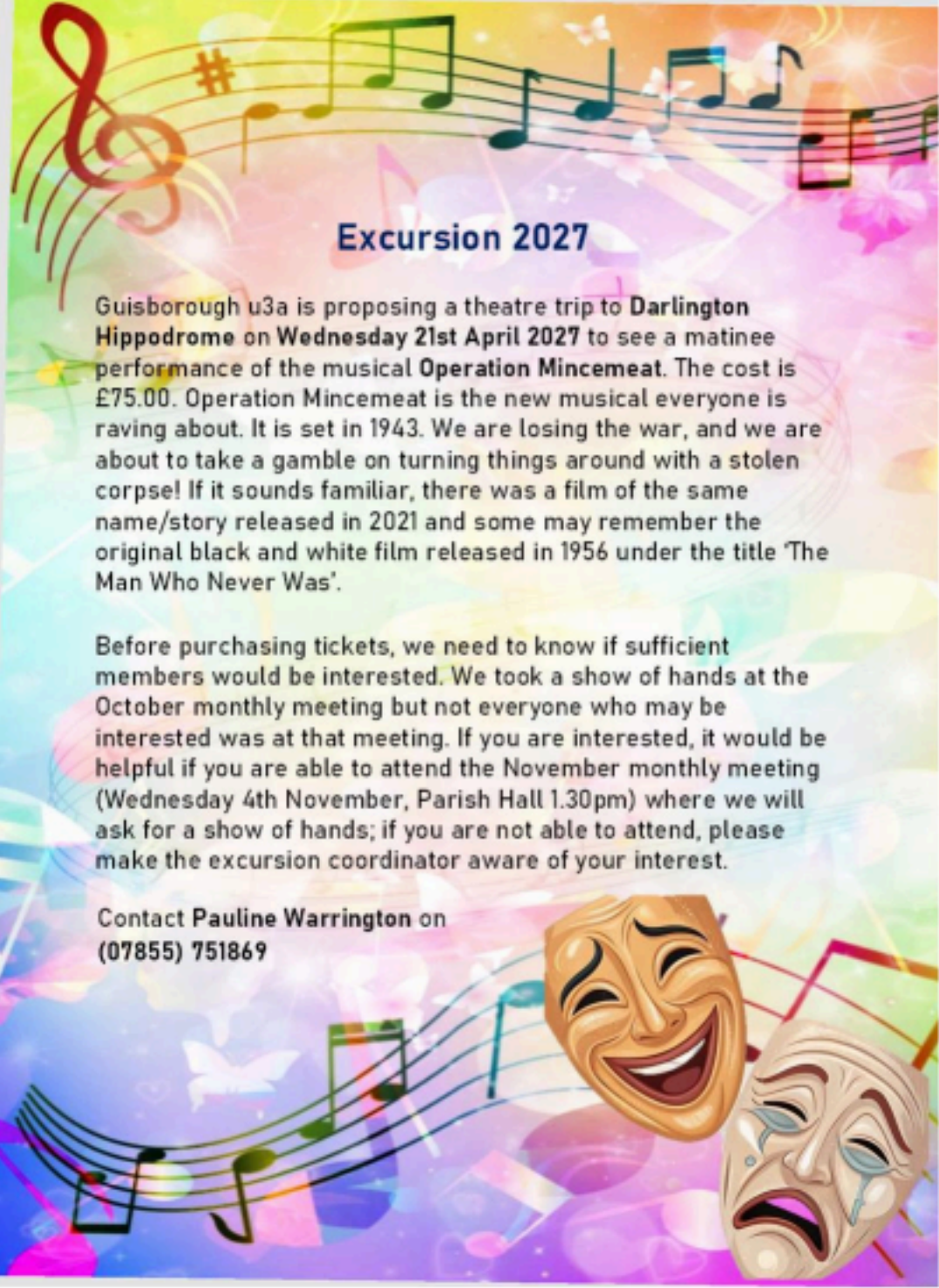
### What's On

| Date       | Event                                                                                                  | Location/details                                                   |
|------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|--------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Thu 15 Oct | Coach excursion: <b>Castle Howard Arboretum</b>                                                        | Further details below                                              |
| Wed 4 Nov  | Monthly meeting<br>Speaker: see <b>Important Notices</b>                                               | 2pm, Parish Hall, with refreshments from 1:30 pm                   |
| Thu 12 Nov | Coach excursion: <b>Newcastle</b> with optional tour at <b>The Laing Art Gallery</b> (Pre-Raphaelites) | Further details below                                              |
| Mon 16 Nov | <b>St. Nicholas Cathedral</b> , Newcastle, with Organ Recital ( <b>own transport</b> )                 | Further details in the 'North East Region u3a Information' section |
| Wed 2 Dec  | Monthly meeting with festive songs and carols: see <b>Important Notices</b>                            | 2pm, Parish Hall, with refreshments from 1:30 pm                   |
| Tue 8 Dec  | Coach excursion: <b>Treasurer's House, York</b>                                                        | Further details below                                              |

### Important notices

- **The next monthly meeting** will be on **Wednesday 4 November**, at the Parish Hall, Bow Street. The doors will open at 1:30 pm and the meeting will begin at 2:00 pm. Our speaker will be **Jennifer Creek**, who will be speaking about travelling in Uzbekistan and showing us some beautiful Uzbekistan textiles.
- The **u3a Singing for Pleasure group** will be putting us all in the right spirit for the festive season with some songs and carols on **Wednesday 2 December**. They very kindly come to our December meeting each year and we love to hear them and join in with some of their numbers. There are rumours of Christmas cake and Wensleydale cheese. Fingers crossed!
- We have had some **problems with sound** at recent meetings, with members being

unable to hear the speakers. Roy has replaced the batteries in the microphones which has helped, and we're also looking into buying some microphones to attach to the speaker's lapel. Please bear with us while we try to sort these glitches.

A colorful poster for a 2027 excursion. The background is a vibrant mix of yellow, orange, and pink with musical notes and butterflies. At the top, a large treble clef and a key signature of one sharp (F#) are visible. The title 'Excursion 2027' is in a bold, blue font. Below it, the text describes a theatre trip to Darlington Hippodrome for the musical 'Operation Mincemeat'. At the bottom, there are two theatrical masks: a smiling comedy mask and a crying tragedy mask, both with musical notes around them.

**Excursion 2027**

Guisborough u3a is proposing a theatre trip to **Darlington Hippodrome** on **Wednesday 21st April 2027** to see a matinee performance of the musical **Operation Mincemeat**. The cost is £75.00. Operation Mincemeat is the new musical everyone is raving about. It is set in 1943. We are losing the war, and we are about to take a gamble on turning things around with a stolen corpse! If it sounds familiar, there was a film of the same name/story released in 2021 and some may remember the original black and white film released in 1956 under the title 'The Man Who Never Was'.

Before purchasing tickets, we need to know if sufficient members would be interested. We took a show of hands at the October monthly meeting but not everyone who may be interested was at that meeting. If you are interested, it would be helpful if you are able to attend the November monthly meeting (Wednesday 4th November, Parish Hall 1.30pm) where we will ask for a show of hands; if you are not able to attend, please make the excursion coordinator aware of your interest.

Contact **Pauline Warrington** on  
**(07855) 751869**

## Guisborough u3a Excursions

### Castle Howard Arboretum - Thursday 15 October 2026

**The cost is £35.** The Castle Howard Arboretum is 120 acres of peace and tranquility in the heart of North Yorkshire. Immerse yourself in the stunning landscape of parkland, lakes and ponds within a collection of more than 7,000 trees from around the world.

We will have a tour of the Arboretum with a specialist guide and then you are free to wander and explore peaceful hidden glades and meadows and discover the wildlife that call the Arboretum home. The Arboretum is home to one of the UK's most successful Red Squirrel

breeding programmes. During your visit you can visit the red squirrel enclosure. There is a café at the arboretum for coffee and light lunches.

The coach will depart Fountain Street car park at **9:30am** and thereafter St. Paulinus The Avenue. We will depart from Castle Howard at approximately **3.30pm**.

For queries, please contact **Moira Stokoe**.

### **Newcastle with optional tour at the Laing Art Gallery - Thursday 12 November 2026**

**The cost is £18 or £25 with the tour.** Join Guisborough u3a's excursion to Newcastle upon-Tyne. We will arrive at the drop off point at Theatre Royal on Grey Street at approximately **10:30am** and you will have the day free to explore.

We have arranged a talk and tour of the **'PRE-RAPHAELITES: ART AND POETRY' at the Laing Art Gallery at 11am**. This exhibition is a highlight in the year for the Laing and the North-East and will show the interconnection between decorative art and the written word; it features over 100 masterpiece paintings, drawings, and objects, some of which have never been displayed in Newcastle before. The artists on display include Hunt, Millais, and Rossetti, as well as Edward Burne-Jones and William Morris.

You will have the opportunity to start Christmas shopping and see the Christmas display in Fenwick's window, or you could visit the Grainger Market or one of Newcastle's many museums.

The coach will depart Fountain Street car park at **9:00am** and thereafter St Paulinus, The Avenue. Pick up for the return journey will be approximately **3:30pm** with expected arrival in Guisborough at **5:00pm**.

This trip is now fully booked. If you wish to be added to the waiting list or have any queries, please contact excursion coordinator **Moira Stokoe**.

### **Treasurer's House, York - Tuesday 8 December 2026**

The cost is **£30.00** (or **£17.00** for National Trust Members and coach only). **All National Trust members MUST have their membership card with them on the day of the visit.**

Join Guisborough u3a for a self-guided tour of this hidden gem in the heart of York. Every year, the house is decorated for the festive season. Along with Christmas merriment, music and twinkling lights, each room tells a story - a different way to get to know the long history of the place. There is an on-site cafe.

After your visit, you will have free time in York to shop, wine and dine, and/or explore the city. There are no Christmas markets on a Tuesday. The Minster will have its annual display of Christmas trees but there is a charge to enter the Minster of £20.00. Please note that the walk from the coach park to The Treasurer's House is approximately 15 minutes and involves negotiating some cobbled pathways.

The coach will depart Fountain Street car park at **9:00am** and thereafter St. Paulinus, The Avenue. We will leave York at approximately **3.30pm to 4:00pm**.

All tickets for admission to the Treasurer's House have been sold. However, there are places for coach only still available. If you did wish to visit the Treasurer's House, you have the option to check availability with the Treasurer's House online and book that independently and just book the coach through u3a. For enquiries, please contact **Pauline Warrington**

### **Gu3a Out & About: A Wonderful Day at Burton Agnes Hall**

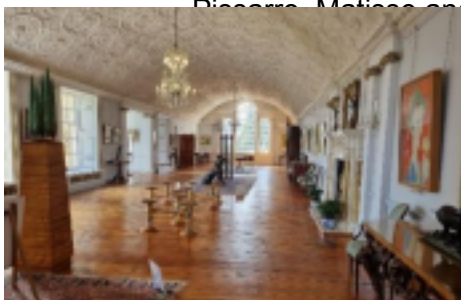
In September, our u3a group boarded the coach for an excursion to Burton Agnes Hall near Driffield. As someone who has visited many historic properties over the years, I can safely say this has to be one of the most beautiful. Because it is still a cherished family home, it manages to blend the old and the new with immense charm and character.



Upon arrival, we split into two groups to spend half our time exploring the stunning house and the other half wandering the magnificent gardens.

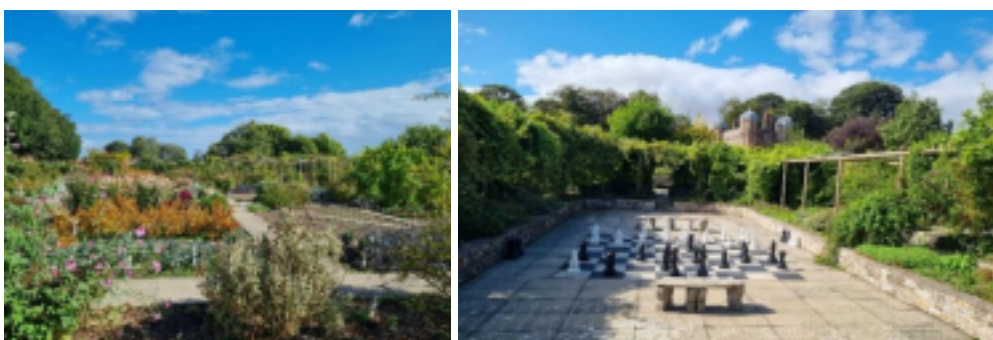
Throughout the house, we were treated to beautiful examples of original Elizabethan wood carving and plasterwork, alongside delicate crystal and porcelain. The Hall is absolutely filled with treasures collected and commissioned by the family over four centuries.

Particularly impressive is their world-class painting collection. Alongside centuries-old formal family portraits, we were amazed to find 19th and 20th-century French Impressionist and Post-Impressionist paintings, as well as modern British artwork. Casually walking through the house, you unexpectedly come across masterpieces by Renoir, Gauguin, Cézanne, Picasso, Matisse and others. It was incredibly surprising to find paintings of this calibre in a welcoming atmosphere.



Up on the third floor, The Long Gallery spans the entire length of the house, offering panoramic views all the way out to Bridlington Bay and housing some of the family's most recent contemporary commissions.

Of course, no grand manor is complete without a bit of mystery! We learned about the family ghost who reputedly haunted the Queen's State Bedroom back in 1620. As the story goes, just before Anne, a daughter of the family, passed away, she begged for her head to be preserved inside the Hall forever. When she died, she was buried in the churchyard instead—but her troubled ghost soon appeared, causing unrest throughout the house. It wasn't until her grave was opened and her skull brought inside that the Hall became peaceful again. The skull remains in the house to this day, safely built into one of the old walls in the Great Hall!



Outside, the grounds were a joy to explore. The gardens included the walled flower garden,

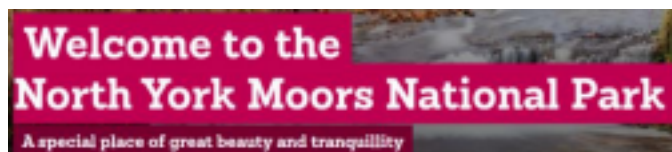
packed with a beautiful collection of Campanulas, vibrant rose beds, and lush herbaceous borders. There were fun, giant board games amongst the coloured gardens, as well as a vegetable garden, a living maze, fruit beds, an unstructured jungle garden, and a peaceful woodland walk.

It was a long drive to and from the Hall, but that highlights one of the best advantages of going on our u3a excursions—you can easily visit these faraway hidden gems while someone else does the driving! A huge thank you to Pauline for organizing the trip and keeping us all beautifully organized on the day. Here's to the next adventure!

**Tricia Goldring**

## Our October speaker

This month's speaker was Stella Barnard, who talked about the National Parks. The North York Moors National Park website has lots of information at <https://www.northyorkmoors.org.uk/>.



- The official **North York Moors Outdoors mobile app** is available to download free on both the Apple App Store and Google Play Store. Search for "North York Moors Outdoors".
- You can find information about their **Dark Skies Fringe Festival**. Activities will be taking place between **23 October and 1 November** at Danby Moors Centre, Sutton Bank, Helmsley and other locations. Visit their website to find out more and book your tickets (some are already sold out).  
<https://www.darkskiesnationalparks.org.uk/north-york-moors-events>
- There is a link to 'Things to do in Autumn' and 'Access for All', as well as information on walking routes in the North York Moors.

## Group Information

We have so many incredible things happening across our wonderful u3a groups, and it's time to celebrate them! Whether your group has tried something new, hit a milestone, or simply captured a great moment, we want to hear about it.

Please send in short articles about your recent activities—and don't forget to attach a photo or two to show us the action. The deadline is the 10th of every month for inclusion in the following month's newsletter.

Let's inspire each other and show everyone what makes our u3a so special!

## National u3a Information

The **National u3a website** is worth checking out. They have many different types of events on offer, including online, to enthuse and inform members on a range of interesting subjects. You can find out more using the link below.

Online, there are free talks, workshops and courses like mindfulness and meditation, introducing AI, feeling connected in a digital world, laughter yoga, cryptic crosswords for beginners, a talk about David Hockney, and lots of others. To find out more or book a place, go to <https://www.u3a.org.uk/what-we-do/events/educational-events#ONLINE-EVENTS>

## North East Region u3a Information

### St. Nicholas Cathedral, Newcastle with Organ Recital – Monday 16 November 2026

The **u3a North East Region Events Team** have arranged a visit and tour of **St Nicholas Cathedral, Newcastle** with the opportunity to attend an afternoon **organ recital**.

For over 900 years, Newcastle Cathedral – originally the Parish Church of St Nicholas – has been at the pulsing heart of Newcastle, as a place of worship and community. From its creation, rebuilding in the Medieval era and the drama of the English Civil War to the extensive remodelling across centuries, the Cathedral echoes stories and history from every corner.

The interior of the Cathedral is a visual feast of stained glass, monuments, memorials, military colours and other sculptures. Each tells a story. Following a **guided tour of the Cathedral at 11am**, you can further explore the Cathedral or have lunch at Cafe16 which offers lunches as well as lighter snacks.

**At 1:05pm there is an opportunity to listen to an organ recital.**

The organ, parts of which are over 350 years old, is exciting and colourful. Its magnificent case in the North Transept catches the eye of all who visit and serves as a striking reminder of how essential music is to the daily rhythm of this sacred space. Today's organ has over 5,600 pipes and 94 speaking stops, making it one of the largest in the North of England. Please note there is a retiring collection after the organ recital.

Meet at **10:45am outside the Cathedral's main door, St Nicholas Square, Newcastle NE1 1PF**. You will need to organise your own transport.

This visit is now **fully booked**, and a further date is being arranged. If you would like your name added to the waiting list, please contact **Moira Stokoe** ([moirastokoe@gmail.com](mailto:moirastokoe@gmail.com)).

## Military Wives Choir at St Nicholas Church

There will be a **Festival of Remembrance** with the **Military Wives Choir** on **Saturday 7 November at 7:30pm**. Tickets are **£10** and can be purchased from **Guisborough Bookshop** (cash only).

## Next newsletter

The deadline for contributions to the next newsletter is **10th November**. The newsletter will be distributed by email or through the letterbox soon after this date.

Contact: [newsletter@guisboroughu3a.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@guisboroughu3a.co.uk).

**Tricia Goldring, Newsletter Editor**

## Contacts

Chair (Moira Stokoe) [chair@guisboroughu3a.co.uk](mailto:chair@guisboroughu3a.co.uk)

Newsletter Editor (Tricia Goldring) [newsletter@guisboroughu3a.co.uk](mailto:newsletter@guisboroughu3a.co.uk)

Group Activities Co-ordinator (Pauline Warrington) [paulinewarrington@outlook.com](mailto:paulinewarrington@outlook.com)

Membership Secretary (John O'Brien) [obrienrj100@gmail.com](mailto:obrienrj100@gmail.com)

## Useful links

Guisborough u3a website <https://guisborough.u3asite.uk/>

Guisborough u3a Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/profile.php?id=61577605674673>

North East Region u3a website <https://northumbria.u3asite.uk/>

National u3a website <https://www.u3a.org.uk/>