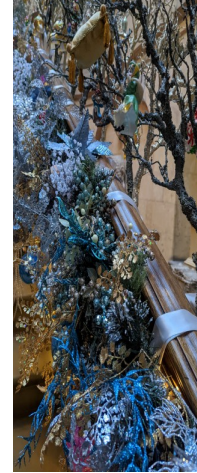


*Christmas Greetings*

Seasons greetings to all our members. We hope you have a happy Christmas and best wishes for the New Year.



**Holiday Group – Trip to London.** Last Tuesday after a pleasant journey by train and tube we arrived at the President hotel in Russell Square. In the evening we ventured to Kew Gardens for the Light Trail. At the start the displays were fantastic but then the rain came and we got soaked! The following day Linda’s brother Geoff (a retired London Tour Guide) took us on a walking tour to see the Changing of the Guard at horseguards parade, Trafalgar Square, Downing St. (not sure who we saw in the car which was departing!); a wander round Covent Garden and finally ending up at the famous Cheshire Cheese for a spot of lunch. The next day some of us went to Madame Tussauds where we had a good laugh and enjoyed the taxi train. Others went to the V & A and saw Rafael cartoons, preparatory drawings for tapestries in the Sistine Chapel and coffee in the beautiful William Morris Cafe. On the final day we went to Windsor where we were walking in the steps of Royalty. A fabulous experience including the famous ‘Doll’s House’ and St. George’s Chapel. All in all a great holiday. **June and Linda**



Trafalgar Square



V & A



Madame Tussauds with James Bond!

More photos on back page

**IN MEMORIAM**

Margaret Ball 1.10.1940 – 23.11.2025

Margaret will be missed by many of us. She has been a member of our u3a for many years. Each month she would be busy in the kitchen preparing our refreshments alongside Shirley. She joined in with various of our groups and is remembered for her comic portrayal of the Grumpy Angel in “The Geordie Nativity”. Together with John, she was an active member of St Andrew’s Church and helped out with groups who meet there.

Our thoughts are with John at this sad time.

**Group News and looking to the New Year**

Table Tennis is held on the first Monday of the month at 11:15 at the Millenium Centre. New members of the group would be welcomed. There have been several sessions and it could become a regular event if there is enough interest . Indoor Tennis is planned for the third Thursday of the month at 11:00 am at Silksworth Tennis Centre from January. Whist and Dominoes continue to meet weekly and more members would be welcomed. You don’t have to be seasoned card players just come along and see how you do.

Ideas for new activities would be appreciated. Contact Anne Moffatt at the January meeting if you would like to make a suggestion for a new group.

**QUIZ – Christmas**

1. What ornaments do elves traditionally have on their shoes?
2. In which modern day country was St Nicholas born in?
3. What are the colour of mistletoe berries?
4. What are the names of Santa’s reindeer?
5. How many points does a snowflake traditionally have?
6. In what country did the putting up a Christmas tree tradition originate?
7. What star sign would you be if you were born on Christmas Day?
8. Which country is the largest exporter of Christmas trees?
9. On what day of the week does Advent commence?
10. Which country supplies the Christmas tree for Trafalgar Square in London?

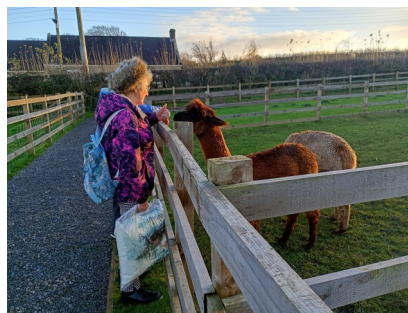
## STROLLS



On 18 th November, ten of us braved the cold to visit Tommy in Seaham. It was a very short stroll and we headed quickly into a café. We were hoping to see Tommy dressed in his coat of poppies, which he had worn the previous week for Remembrance Day, but he had shed this. We did see the poppy tribute made up of red stones.

On 25 th November, a large group of nineteen went to The South Causey Inn for the Christmas Market. The first stop was the café and then a browse among the festive stalls.

Some of us ventured outside to the Pets' Corner, where we saw alpacas, black faced Valais sheep pygmy goats and various farmyard birds.



On 27th November 25 members travelled to Harperly Garden Centre near Tanfield by car share to enjoy an "afternoon at the musicals". We had a light lunch followed by entertainment. At half-time there was bingo and a quiz. A very enjoyable time was had by all. Hopefully it is something we could look into doing again in 2026. **Susan**

## Quiz answers

1 Bells 2 Turkey 3 White 4 Six 5 Blitzzen 6 Comet 7 Cupid, Dasher, Prancer, Vixen, Dancer and Donner, 6 Germany  
7 Capricorn 8 Canada 9 Sunday 10 Norway

# LONDON



Mixing with Royalty



Covent garden



## CURRENT ACTIVITIES

<b>Local History</b> <b>Woodridge Gardens</b>	Wednesday 10:00 am 3rd in month - <b>Shirley Talbot</b>	<b>Film Club</b> <b>Woodridge Gardens</b>	Friday 2pm <i>dates and time vary</i> - <b>David Taylor</b>
<b>Day Outings</b>	As and when	<b>Dominoes</b> <b>Woodridge Gardens</b>	Monday 2 p.m. Alternate weeks - <b>Diana Clark</b>
<b>Table Tennis</b>	Mon 1st in mth 11:15	<b>Lunch - variable</b>	Friday last in month (variable time and place) - <b>Elvira Pirozzi</b>
<b>Holiday Group</b> <b>Peacehaven Court</b>	Thursday 10.30 a.m Last in month	<b>Photography</b> <b>Millennium Centre</b>	Thursday 10 a.m. 1st in month - <b>Keith Allison</b>
<b>Quiz Group</b> <b>Millennium Centre</b>	Thursday 2 p.m. 2nd in month - <b>Shirley Talbot</b>	<b>Strollers</b> <b>Meet St Andrews</b>	Tuesday 12:30 pm - can vary - <b>Diana Clark</b>
<b>Walking</b> <b>Meet St Andrews</b>	Wednesday 9.30 a.m. last in month - <b>Brian Wilkinson</b>	<b>Whist</b> <b>Woodridge Gardens</b>	Monday 2 p.m. Alternate weeks - <b>Diana Clark</b>
<b>Walking Tennis</b> <b>Usworth Park</b>	Wednesday 11:00 am Summer only - <b>Sandra Cullen</b>	<b>Croquet</b> <b>Cleadon Croquet Club</b>	Tuesday 1:00 pm Summer only some dates - <b>Ann Thomley</b>

CONTACTS: Chair: Diana Clark Treasurer: Colin Hughes Secretary: Elvira Pirozzi

Tel: 07351 975027

If you wish to contact a group leader or other official please visit our website where you can email contacts securely on the Contacts page.