u3a Washington

AUGUST 2026 NEWSLETTER

## Local History Group

We had an interesting meeting in July. Members of the group told us how they came to be living in Washington and their memories of their lives in Washington so far.
The availability of good housing at a realistic price was a key factor for many. However one person when told of a possible move to Washington said she wasn't going. She had heard all the women in Washington were on tranquilisers and people could not find their way around because the villages had numbers as guides not names. However the sight of the new house with a garden and a toilet both downstairs and up was too much to refuse.
Another member did not want to come as there was nothing to do. However she now feels she has grown up alongside Washington.
Many of the group's children were born in Washington and that proved to be a way in which they became involved in the community, especially through playgroups and church.
Another member was born in Washington in the 50s and remembers having a lovely childhood, where she played in the streets and parks and walked to school.
Mention of The Galleries sparked many memories of the various shops that existed, Woolco, T G Allens, Tandy, Presto and Carricks to name a few, alongside the huge clock that hung from the ceiling where Costa is now based.
All of the group said they are pleased to have moved to Washington and are happy to still be living here and spoke of the many friendships they have made.
It was fascinating to listen to other people's stories. Thankyou for everyone sharing them. Sandra



*The Galleries, the North East's most exciting shopping centre*

Speakers

Today: Margaret Robson – Rhyme & Reality

September: Roger Morris – Joe Meek

October: Arthur Smith – Tanfield Railway

November: Margaret Bozic – A Bonny, Bonny Town? A History of Chester-le-Street

December: Christmas Lunch

Strollers

14th July: Fourteen of us went to The Glass Centre for lunch, it was nice.
We set off to walk up river, passed the Ray Lonsdale statues, through the area where ship yards had been. The route took us under the new footbridge, along the Coast-to-Coast cycle path. Our walk took us through some quite historic areas, showing the old and new. The large brick structure with a large hole through it, was not as I said for steel materials, but for coal to go directly into the colliers waiting to export it. We walked as far as the Lime Kilns opposite the old Coles Cranes site.
The weather was ideal for strolling. We were entertained by a group of canoeists and paddle borders falling off their canoes and boards, before heading home. Keith







21st July: Thirteen stroller met at the car park near the Art Centre. We had a pleasant stroll round Princess Anne Park, ending at the Art Centre for a chat and refreshments. All in all, a good time. Brian

28th July: Seventeen of us this time for a picnic at Beamish Museum, where we were not able to claim the whole of the bandstand in the Edwardian Park. After which we strolled down to Rowley Railway Station, where there was some very attractive railway art, including a wall map on tiles, showing the north-east railway lines. We then looked at a restored engine, before making our way back to the entrance on a tram. Diana










1st August: A small group of us visited Washington Old Hall on a Saturday, as it is closed on Tuesdays. The gardens were looking particularly colourful.
Diana

Walking Group
Once again the intrepid six conquered the walk from Wingate to Horns Garden Centre and back, five miles in all. Everyone enjoyed being out and about , catching up on the latest thing. John



Walkers doing what they do best

# CROQUE
T

Well what a season we have had so far this year. We have had regular players reviving and improving their skills. Ken did his first jump, which was amazing. This entailed jumping over an opponent's ball sitting halfway through the hoop and claiming it as a point for himself. There have been some new members, who all seem as though they have really enjoyed trying it out. Sadly by the time you read this, there is only one more session, that is Tuesday 1st September at 1 o'clock and all you pay is £4, which includes tea/coffee and biscuits. So do come for an end of term session.
Usually I have one or two club members to help out and help keep the peace as the games progress and those people have really enjoyed getting to know visitors. They would love you to join us properly, but not everyone has the time. We are responsible financially to pay for lawn maintenance and treatments, as are bowling greens now and we are so grateful for you helping our funds and hopefully looking forward to next year's visits.
Last year, if conditions were OK, we played once a week during winter, as we are so keen on the game and the fellowship. I am pleased and proud to be part of this friendly group.

## Anyone for Croquet

Anyone for croquet?
A pleasant game we hear you call.
We'll have a leisurely stroll across the lawn
And a gentle tap of the ball.

Just tap your ball through the hoop
Or help your partner out.
But as for your opponent,
"I've knocked him away," you shout.

You have to be quite ruthless.
It's not really a gentle game.
But we head for Cleadon once a month
And have lots of fun all the same.

Diana





Foodbanks in Washington
Mickey's Place in Concord, Open Wednesdays 9.30 – 12 Noon
The Affordable Food Hub at Albany Village Centre, Open Wednesdays 1.30 – 3.30 pm (low cost food, toiletries & household items)
Donations welcome.

Only Connect Answers
Group 1: Puddings- Summer, Yorkshire, Rice, Christmas
Group 2: Periods of Time – Month, Year, Hour, Decade
Group 3: Counties - Norfolk, Essex, Somerset, Durham
Group 4: Christmas _____ – Carol, Lights, Tree, Day

ONLY CONNECT
Sort the words below into four groups of four words. But watch out, some words could fit into more than one group. There is only one solution to use all the words.

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|---|---|---|---|
| Summer | Decade | Hour | Carol |
| Christmas | Norfolk | Day | Rice |
| Somerset | Tree | Durham | Year |
| Yorkshire | Lights | Month | Essex |

Future Events

Saturday 22nd August 11 am to 3 pm
Miners' Picnic in Usworth Park (not u3a event)

Friday 18th September 1.30 pm
Cruise on the River Wear at Durham
£11 per person
Tuesday 22nd September
Visit to Recycling Centre
(Please add your names to the lists at the back of the hall if you would like to go on either or both these visits. Payment today or at next month's meeting)

Tuesday 20th October – Regional Event Pre-Raphaelites: Art & Poetry at The Laing – look out on the regional website for booking to open

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

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| Local History<br>Woodridge Gardens | 3rd Wednesday in month<br>10am Shirley Talbot | Film Club | Currently Pending<br>David James Taylor |
| Day Outings | As and When<br>Any member can organise these | Holiday Group<br>Peacehaven Court | Last Thursday in month<br>10.30 am Val Pinder |
| Dominoes<br>Woodridge Gardens | Alternate Mondays 2 pm<br>Diana Clark (not in July & August) | Whist<br>Woodridge Gardens | Alternate Mondays 2 pm<br>Diana Clark (not in July & August) |
| Monthly Meeting<br>St Andrew's Church | 2nd Tuesday in month<br>10 am | Lunch Club<br>Various Venues | Usually last Friday in month – can vary<br>Elvira Pirozzi |
| Photography<br>Millennium Centre or Outside Photoshoot | 1st Thursday in month<br>10 am Keith Allison | Quiz<br>Millennium Centre | 2nd Thursday in month<br>2 pm Shirley Talbot |
| Strollers<br>Meet at St Andrew's | Every Tuesday usually<br>12.30 pm (can vary)<br>Diana Clark | Walkers<br>Meet at St Andrew's | Last Wednesday in month 10 am<br>Brian Wilkinson |
| Indoor Walking Tennis<br>Silksworth Tennis Centre | 3rd Thursday in month<br>11 am (outside summer months) Sandra Cullen | Outdoor Walking Tennis<br>Usworth Park | Every Thursday 1.30 pm (except 2nd in month, summer months only)<br>Sandra Cullen |
| Croquet<br>Cleadon Croquet Club | 1st Tuesday in month<br>1 pm (summer only)<br>Ann Thomley | | |

Contacts: Chair: Keith Allison Treasurer: Joan Plater Secretary: Elvira Pirozzi Tel: 07351975027
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If you wish to contact a group leader or other official, please visit out website where you can email contacts securely on the Contacts page.