u3a Washington

JULY 2026 NEWSLETTER

Farmer Margaret



Walking Holiday 23rd – 25th

Our walking holiday became a holiday of short walks for most of us, owing to the extremely hot weather and health issues
Eleven of us set off to Bellingham, stopping off at Brockbushes for the obligatory coffee stop on the way.
The Riverdale Hotel was excellent, food first class, weather hot, company great.
Three foolhardy walkers braved the heat and challenging terrain to complete the walk to Hareshaw Linn waterfall, finding the walk enjoyable. The rest of us walked along the river into Bellingham, then treated ourselves to refreshments at the railway and visited the museum. After much research, we found St Cuthbert's Well (known by locals as Cuddy's Well), which is still the source of fresh water used in the local church for baptisms. We then had to cool off with a beer or two.
A good time was had by all and looking forward to next year.
On the journey home we stopped at Kirkharle and had a stroll around the lake there. Then some of us went to Bolam Lake, while some stopped off at Belsay. Shirley

Tea by the Train



Brian & Ken on Walk



John there too



Hareshaw Linn



Cuddy's Well



By Bolam Lake



Swans &Cygnets



Speakers	Today: Sharon Vincent – Body Snatchers and Anatomists
	August: Revd. Jane Rowel – Travel
	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

Our New Committee

Elected Committee Members

Chair: Keith Allison
Vice Chair & Minutes Secretary: Susan Steanson
Secretary & Website Editor: Elvira Pirozzi
Treasurer: Joan Plater
Assistant Treasurer: Tony Pratt
Welfare Secretary: Jeni Anderson
Speaker Secretary: David James Taylor
Newsletter Editor: Diana Clark

Co-opted Members

Membership Secretary: Sandra Cullen
Groups Co-ordinator: Anne Moffatt

Message From the New Chair

Hello, for those who do not know me, I am Keith Allison and I have taken over as Chair of Washington u3a. I have succeeded Diana Clark, who will be a very hard act to follow. Diana has done a fantastic job as Chair. For the past four years, she has steered us through some choppy waters. Diana is staying on the committee to look after the Newsletter, following the very sad death of Linda Carr.

I would also like to thank Colin Hughes, who has stood down from the committee and his job of Treasurer, for his fantastic work over the past two years. He has made sure we are in a good financial position to continue.

There are challenges to deal with, one of which is to recruit new members and set up some new interest groups. We all need to help with these challenges. We need to grow to continue as a u3a.

There are a number of activities going on in the Region, which are very interesting and fun. Have a look at the Regional website and join in.

It is with a heavy heart, I must report the sudden death of Mo Brown, who has been instrumental in so much in the Region and National. She was a good friend to so many, including me. She will be sadly missed by her family and all who knew her. Keith

Twisted chair for the new Chair



Keith

<u>North East Region of u3a</u>

This is the new name for what was the Northumbria Region. Google the website it is very easy to use. An exciting event has been planned for 20th October, “Pre-Raphaelite Art and Poetry” a presentation and tour at Laing Art Gallery in Newcastle. See the flyer at the back of the hall.

Strollers

16th June: Twelve Strollers used the Park & Ride to travel to Durham. We then walked up to the Cathedral. We had thought that the Inspire Ladies Choir, which includes Shirley and Kath, were singing in a concert. However, we found ourselves in the midst of Mothers' Union members, who were holding a service to mark 150 years since their foundation. The choir's input was significant and melodious. We ended the afternoon at Costa Coffee. Diana

23rd June: There were not many on the stroll as other members were off on the walking holiday. We had a leisurely stroll to Washington Village on a rather hot day. The Green provided an excellent place to sit outside in the shade and enjoy refreshments, before another leisurely stroll back to St Andrews.
Plenty of chat as we strolled. Sandra



30th June: Eleven strollers met at Malton Picnic Park. We strolled along the river, enjoying the sunshine and made our way to Lanchester, where we found a new watering hole, Ravellos Italian Restaurant and Café. After much cake, scones and chat, we made our way back to the cars and home. All in all a lovely afternoon. Brian





7th July: Ten of us, including two new recruits, played croquet at Cleadon. We had a little light drizzle, but managed to enjoy a couple of games, before tea and biscuits in the club .

Local History Group

At a meeting of the Local History Group on Wednesday 17th June, we considered what the focus of the group was going to be. Following discussions, we decided to look into the industrial heritage of the Washington area from about the time the first coal pit was dug at Harraton in 1797. Before this date, there would have been various fledgling industries in the area, but would have been all linked in some way to farming.
We also decided that everyone in the group would bring to the next meeting in July, some information on what attracted them to come to live and settle in the new town of Washington. Colin

Photography Group

Our current project is "Along the River Wear". We have been out taking photos along the river. Keith went hunting its source, not at Wearhead, as the name implies, but he traced it back to Cowshill. We have also searched through our banks of photos. Project started, still ongoing. Diana

Quiz Answers 1.Melbourne 2.Ace 3.The French Open 4.Wimbledon 5.Andy Murray & Roger Federer 6.Lords 7.England & Australia 8.The Riverside 9.The Third Man 10.Square Leg

Summer Sports of Tennis and Cricket

1.Which Australian city hosts the Open Tennis Tournament?
2.What term is common to tennis and a pack of cards?
3. Which is the only Grand Slam held on clay courts?
4.Which venue hosted the 2012 Olympic tennis competition?
5. Who won the men's singles and who did he beat in the final?
6.Which ground has hosted the most English test matches?
7.Which two countries compete for The Ashes?
8.What is the name of Durham's cricket ground?
9.Which cricket position is also a book by Graham Greene?
10. Which cricket position is a shaped limb?



Café Culture in Washington

CURRENT ACTIVITIES

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

Contacts: Chair: Keith Allison Treasurer: Joan Plater Secretary: Elvira Pirozzi Tel: 07351975027
Registered Charity Number 1127881 Editor: Diana Clark

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.