

WASHINGTON U3A



March 2020

To-day

The extraordinary family history of
Stan Laurel's father: by Gerard Parker

Registered Charity no. 1127881

April

In the footsteps of the Brontes,
Noel Adamson



Fabulous travel group cruise

We joined the ship in Hong Kong where we were welcomed by the Purser, the crew and an Amazing Red Dragon! After tea and cake we retired to our excellent spacious cabins to prepare for the evenings entertainment. The evening commenced with free cocktails, accompanied by a selection of oriental snacks and followed by a superb 4 course Chinese meal, with full service. During the meal we could hear the ships horns as we departed for our next port.

From Hong Kong to Rome, then Cairo and finally docking at New York everything was fabulous! On the final night deck games cocktails and a 6 course tasting menu for dinner. Not to forget a 'Great Gatsby' evening and photos with the captain!



Tea Rota VOLUNTEERS to serve the tea and coffee at the monthly meetings are always needed. Why not add your name to the list at the back of the hall to assist in this important service. Members will only be required to assist on an occasional basis.

CHAIRS AND TABLES - Assistance is always required before the start of the monthly meeting to put out the chairs and tables, and also at the end of the meetings to put them back in place. The ORANGE chairs and the tables are stacked on the piano side of the hall, and the BLUE chairs are on the stage (at the back).

The new **Data Protection Policy and Privacy Policy** (required by new data protection regulations) has been created. It can be found on the website or 3 copies are available to view at the back of the room.

A POLITE REQUEST Would all members **PLEASE** put their mobiles onto silent during the meeting, it is very distracting for the rest of us when it rings, or sounds for a text. **Keith Allison, Chair**

Your Committee Needs You

We will need some new committee members this year so I would like you all to think about it. We, as a U3A, cannot function without a committee to run things. The job can be a very emotionally rewarding one to do, seeing how your efforts can bring enjoyment to your friends and fellow U3A members. Please think about it and let the current committee know if you are interested in becoming a member. **Keith**

Front page—Travel group 'Landlubbers Cruise' - coach trip to Llandudno where we stayed at the fabulous Tynedale Hotel. Trips to Carnarvon and Llanfair-pwllgwyngyll-gogery-chwyrn-drobwll-lan-tysilio-gogo-goch included. New members welcome.

Reminder - Annual Subscriptions - to be paid at April and May monthly meetings.

Planned outings for summer: - For any of these please leave your name at the back of the hall.

Day Trip to Falkirk Wheel & The Kelpies

A group from the Strollers have booked onto this day trip on Sunday 3rd May with JH Coaches, leaving at 7.40 from Washington, £29. If anyone else would like to join us you can book directly with JH Coaches 01914104107

20th Anniversary Tyne River Cruise

This has been arranged for Tuesday 23rd June. Cost is £15 to include return coach from St Andrews, leaving at 10.30 am and returning about 4 pm. Refreshments are available on the boat, but no food or drink can be taken aboard. If you already expressed interest, your name is on the sheet at the back, please delete if you cannot go or add your name if you want to. Please pay today or at next month's meeting.

Chatterbox Lunch

This has been arranged for Wednesday 22nd April at Woodridge Gardens. We would like your suggestions about what sort of lunch: fish & chips again, something else provided by the café, a buffet which we provide? So we will discuss that today. After lunch on the day we will get together for activities. Please add your name to the sheet at the back of the hall if you want to join us. Cost to be arranged, but moderate! **Diana**

Jon Coatsworth Art Exhibition Gateshead Central Library Tuesday 7th April. Meet at **Weatherspoons** Concord at **12.30pm** for a bite to eat then off to Gateshead Interchange by Bus then a short walk to the Library **Fred Ayre**

Auckland Castle - I am arranging a visit on Friday May 15th to The Auckland Project. The ticket gives access to the Castle, Faith Museum, Spanish Gallery, Mining Art Gallery, Deer Park, Walled Garden and Auckland Tower visitor centre. The cost will be £22. There are still spaces available. If you are interested please sign the list at the back of the hall. If you have already signed the list and you have the money with you could you please pay today as I will not be at the next monthly meeting. Pickup times etc. will be in next month's newsletter. **Sandra**

Whist - was on the 9th and the next one is on the 23rd March. Many thanks to George Rutter for taking over from me. Pat Gauntlett

The next **Quiz** will be on Thursday the 12th. I will not be running the Quiz or the Whist in future, for personal reasons. I hope to continue participating. **Pat Gauntlett**

NEW - Craft/Card making Group First Tuesday in the month, 2 - 4 pm Millenium Centre. All welcome. June Judge

U3A National Newsletter AND Regional Newsletter

These newsletters are available on the website (they can be accessed from Washington U3A website page - the National one on the News page and the regional one on the Events page). They contain future events and news from local U3As and those around the country. You can sign up to receive the National one directly at u3a.org.uk/email



Strollers After the February meeting we went to Wetherspoons for lunch and then 10 of us braved the wind and snow to make our way to the Bowling Alley at the galleries, unfortunately losing Ken and Shirley on the way. Once we had gathered we booked lanes and split into two teams. We had an enjoyable game of ten-pin bowling with some of us even managing to hit the pins. After coffee and a chat we headed home. A very good time was had by all. **Brian.**

On the 25th we had our third stroll of the month. 14 members travelled to Gateshead Quayside to view the Knife Angel. On arrival the sculpture was bathed in bright sunshine and 10000 blades were glinting and shimmering making this incredible exhibition more spectacular and poignant. We took time to admire and feel the powerful message the Knife Angel gives.

As it was a fine afternoon the group decided to cross the Millenium bridge and walk along the river to the cyclehub at Ouseburn for refreshments. Then we re-traced our steps to catch our transport home. Forthcoming: March 17th – the planned stroll is 3 miles in length. Parts of the footpath may be wet and muddy due to adverse weather conditions. **Jenni**

Camera and Computer Group

The group met on Thursday morning at the Millenium Centre. We had an exhibition of each the group's photographs of The Sea Shore, there were some very good presentations. Some of the group had expressed an interest in using Windows 10 software to produce a show and add music. We had a run through of how to do it and some of us produced some good shows. The next photo shoot will be at Durham Botanical Gardens.



Monthly walk to the Arts centre for coffee then down to the riverside and along to South Hylton and metro and/or bus back to Washington. A beautiful day for a walk

Sunderland City U3A event

We have been in discussions with Sunderland City Council and the other U3As in the city area about holding an event for members in the City Council Chamber. We have agreed a date of May 13th. It will be held in the council chamber and will be an all-day event. We have a mixed program of speakers for the day, with a lunch break. The cost of the day will be £10 each. The number of tickets is initially restricted to 20 per U3A.

The event will be opened by the Leader of Sunderland City Council. He will talk about what the City may be doing for groups like the U3A, and the City's plans for the future. The speakers confirmed are Steve Cram, Sir David Bell of Sunderland University, and Stewart Miller, a Sunderland Historian, to talk about Sunderland's history. We are also trying to get Sister Mary Scholastica to talk about her work with the sailors in the port of Sunderland, she has appeared on local television at the Tall Ships event. Terry Deary may also be at the event but he will not be a speaker.

Most of our speakers will take questions from the audience. It should be a very interesting day. It's a first for the City Council allowing U3A's an event in the Civic Centre and the Council Chamber. More details to follow. **Keith.**

Answers to last month's quiz:

1. 3 degrees below zero, 2. Tricycle, 3. Split level, 4. Reading between the lines, 5. Put it in writing, 6. Austria, 7. United States, 8. Bulgaria, 9. Brazilia, 10. Spain and Portugal

Linda Carr 07/03/2020 - email: lindaecarr2@gmail.com