

# WASHINGTON U3A DECEMBER 2019



To-day  
Christmas Show



January  
'Turn and Burn' - a history of coal and rail  
Mike Ledra

Reg-

**Visit to Castle Howard** - On a bright crispy day, 26 of us set out on this National Holiday trip after a convenient pick-up at Concord at 10:45 a.m..The theme for this year was *'A Christmas Masquerade'*, and it transformed Castle Howard into a spectacular and colourful display of Christmas before the Victorian ages. It is described in the brochure as *'a festive tribute to the original designers of this extraordinary stately home, who were inspired by the opulent Italian Baroque and made many references to the glittering magnificence of Venice'*. Throughout the day spontaneous carols were playing, and there were various opportunities for lunch or tea, and outside a train was running to the lake and boathouse if you fancied a spot of fresh air. In the main hall was a massive Christmas tree with over 4000 Christmas ornaments. A lovely day on which a good time was had by all.

## A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

This past year has seen some great trips and events for us all. There have been some sad losses of members and the joining of some new ones.

I would like to thank all of the committee, the group leaders, the members who have organised trips, and all who have helped things work smoothly for all of us.

To-day we end the year with our December Monthly Meeting, where we are about to see our Dance Group perform on stage. There will be a quiz, and a raffle and we will also see a Geordie Nativity, written by Lyn Chapman and Ann Thomley. It will be performed our own brave members. A lot of hard work has gone into this production so we hope it makes you laugh and starts Christmas off with some humour.

Next year is our anniversary. We will be having a number of events during the year starting with our annual lunch at the Kylin Restaurant. Please pay for your meal today.

The Third Age Trust is trying to raise the profile of the U3A by having a national U3A day on 3rd of June. All U3As are being asked to become involved. There will be more details about this and other trips and events later.

**May I SAY AGAIN HAVE A VERY MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR, Keith**

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,**

**20th Anniversary Lunch** - This will be held on Friday 24th January at the Kylin Restaurant in Albany. The price for the Chinese Banquet is £14 (to include a tip). Some of us have sampled this and enjoyed it (menu at back of hall). Alternative English dishes are available. If you would prefer one of these, please see the menu at the back of the hall and write down your choice. Payment needs to be made by the January monthly meeting. **Diana Clark**

The final meeting of the **Contract Bridge Group** for 2019 is scheduled for Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> December at the Millennium Centre. The first meeting of 2020 will be on 9<sup>th</sup> January. **ALEX IRVINE**

Last Dominoes for this year will be 9/12/2019 and last Whist is 16/12/2019.

Re-start in New Year with Dominoes on 6/1/2020 and Whist on 13/1/2020 **Jan Lawson**

**Calendars** - if you have ordered a calendar can you please collect and pay for it to-day. If you didn't order one but would like one please see Linda as there are one or two still available.

**New Craft Group** - 1st Tuesday of the month, 2-4 pm Millenium Center

**Diaries** - if you havn't yet received your **Free** diary please collect it to-day.

**History wardrobe production**- Wed 19th Feb, 10:30 'Women in Gold'. Chester-le-St tickets on sale at the back of the hall, £15 including buffet lunch. Please get tickets to-day if you want to go.

**Membership Details**—Can you let me know of any changes to membership details as soon as possible please. **Sandra Cullen.**

**Travel Club Visit to Nidd Hall** - 12 members of the travel club embarked on this 4 night 'Tinsel and Turkey' break at one of the Warner Group hotels. It is an impressive hotel in it's own grounds, and many of the bedrooms had been renovated since our last visit 3 years ago and were beautifully fitted. The entertainments team were brilliant, particularly the compere, and some of us enjoyed the spa with pool, sauna, steamroom and jacuzzi all included in the overall price. If you could manage the mile walk to the local bus stop very frequent buses were available to Harrogate or Ripon, and at a slightly further distance you could visit the pretty village of Riply with tea-room and gift shops. For those who are less mobile there is a coach transfer to either Harrogate aor Knaresborough ( this one including a guided tour) at very reasonable prices. The food quality was excellent with a choice of buffet meal or table service with a different menu. The Christmas theme included a Panto and an atmospheric Carol Service at the Nidd Parish Church which is next to the Hall. A great starter for the Christmas Season.



**Washington Sunderland Community 'Everyone Thrives Online IT workshop'** on Wednesday 11th December from 5pm-7pm at Washington Library, Independence Square, Washington, NE38 7RT. If you are interested please call Hannah on 0191 417 4048 to book. The session will help build people's confidence in IT. The workshops will work with 8-10 people and focus on conquering basic digital skills such as setting up an email account, being aware of online scams and security and setting up appointments and calendars online.

**Strollers** - ten pin bowling! After the Monthly meeting 9 strollers walked to the galleries on a fine Autumn day. 8 of the nine then went to the bowling alley where we had a very enjoyable afternoon. We formed two teams of 4 and after a very close contest Maureen's team were victorious! Merry Christmas everyone - Fred and Maureen

Today we will lunch at Weatherspoons, then take the bus and metro to Central Station and stroll through Newcastle to view Fenwick's windows. **Please note** next week we will meet at St Andrew's at **12 noon**, to car share to Seaham. We will have a short stroll along the sea front to Humbles, for afternoon tea. If you want to join in, please add your name to the list today and pay £11.50 for a cream tea or £14 if you would prefer the festive tea. **Diana**



**Travel Group** - Derwent Hall Christmas Party, a day after the trip to Castle Howard a largely similar group of people boarded a bus from the Galleries for a fun day at Derwent hall Hotel. An excellent meal which was very well organised considering there were about 200 people there! After dinner there was dancing, Bingo, a comedian, more dancing (with an excellent singer) and finally tea and mince pies!!! A good time was had by all!



**Walking Group** - On Wednesday November 27<sup>th</sup> nine brave souls' set off to Hebburn to start our walk to Howden via Monkton and Jarrow. Starting off on what was once Bowes railway, skirting Lukes Lane and passing through West Park and two other parks and on to Jarrow town centre and a lunch stop in Morrison's. After lunch we walked through the pedestrian tunnel and then on up to Howden Metro station for the return journey, all our bus and metro connections went well with no waiting around. The only downside was the weather, with constant drizzle and poor visibility which for seasoned walkers is no problem. Enjoyed by all.  
**Ken.**

**Many Thanks to all who have made contributions to the Newsletter over the course of the year - please keep them coming. Merry Christmas to everyone—Linda (editor).**

**Answers to last month's quiz:**

1. A score to settle, 2. A Dark Horse 3. A large overdraft, 4. A cut above the rest, 5. Clerical error, 6. A bit of this and a bit of that, 7. Slap and tickle, 8. Shrinking violet, 9. Short notice, 10. Reading between the lines