



u3a



<https://u3asites.org.uk/wooler>

u3a WOOLER E-BULLETIN: SPRING 2022

WELCOME

On behalf of u3a Wooler Chair Pat Boyd, Trustees and members ... welcome to this edition of the e-bulletin which keeps you in touch with the many and varied activities of one of the largest voluntary sector membership organisations in Glendale. Apologies if you receive more than one copy of this e-bulletin; better to see it twice than not at all?!

Apologies

Enthusiastic readers of this e-bulletin (there are one or two!) will appreciate that this is the first edition since the 2021 u3a Day special edition, last June. Sadly, the Editor has had a number of health and other problems and, of course, u3a Wooler has not been functioning 'at full strength' again until recently. However, all is well now – enjoy ...

u3a Takeover Day

Over seventy u3a members, from across the region, attended the first face-to-face Northumbria u3a event in a long time, "u3a Takeover Day" at the Great North Museum in Newcastle. u3a Wooler sent the largest group (ten members).



u3a Wooler member Bob Taylor



u3a Wooler member Alan Batha

Participants could choose to visit the Planetarium (open for the first time, post Covid-19), study gemstones and make their own creations using 'fake' gemstones, handle and learn about tools discovered in local archaeological digs, sketch North East birds and animals to a background of recorded birdsong, discuss the 'decolonisation' of Egyptian artefacts and complete a quiz to learn about the Natural History Society of Northumbria.

All participants rated the event very highly and many were impressed with the way in which the former Hancock Museum had been modernised and transformed. Northumbria u3a has further events planned in partnership with South Tyneside Council, Kirkleatham Walled Garden, Bensham Grove Community Learning Centre and the Laing Art Gallery.



u3a Wooler members Cecilia Coulson (also u3a Takeover Day Working Group Chair) and Mo Brown (also u3a Northumbria Chair) presented u3a-branded Travel Mugs, as a memento of the event, to Joanne Charlton (Tyne & Wear Archives and Museums) and Ruth Sheldon (Great North Museum).

u3a Wooler International Group

After monthly meetings with talks about elephants, Africa and Thailand, International Group members decided to discuss and sample their favourite 'international' nibbles.



From Middle Eastern falafels with Thai sweet chilli dip to chocolate-dipped French Madeleines, from Israeli Medjool dates to sour cream and chive Pretzels (originated in 7th Century in Italy, not in Germany or the USA!), from cheese-flavoured Thai crackers to the best-selling Sauerkraut from Germany – a wonderful time was had by all!



At the beginning of monthly International Group meetings, members are asked to highlight something 'international' which has interested them in recent weeks (eg TV programme, newspaper/magazine article, email/letter from abroad, music, art etc). It was great that one member had been to Ukraine and, at the meeting, wore a typical Ukrainian shawl and brought a doll in Ukrainian national costume and a selection of souvenirs.



Joan Thomas and Marion Sinton



Kiev, in better times

In the past years, since independence, Ukraine had developed many u3as and, although thoughts were with all Ukrainians, members gave special attention to the u3a members and their families in Kyiv, Kharkiv, Lviv, Ternopil, Sumy, Zhitomir and Cherkasy.

u3a Wooler Film Nights

The popular film nights have returned! Always, great films are shown in the Cheviot Centre at 7.30 pm on the first Friday of each month. Film nights are true community events and non-u3a members and their families are very welcome. March and April featured ...



June will feature the recent remake of "Little Women".

Hadrian's Wall

2022 is the 1900th anniversary of the building of Hadrian's Wall and there are huge number of celebrations across the North East, starting on 24 January (Hadrian's own birthday) and culminating with Saturnalia from 17 to 23 December.

Northumbria u3a organised a special event to celebrate both the 40th Anniversary of u3a and the 1900th anniversary of Hadrian's Wall, Amazing Arbeia. Three u3a Wooler members attended and, despite the weather, braved a tour of the site before enjoying activities – handling a range of archaeological finds and printing their 'highlights of Arbeia'.



Arbeia Roman Fort, South Shields



Mo Brown printing

Glendale Live listings

Thanks to the efforts of all u3a Wooler Group Organisers and the Groups Co-ordinator, details of all u3a Wooler activities now appear in each edition of Glendale Live.

HOPE TO SEE YOU SOON ... as, gradually, things return to a new normal ...

u3a Wooler is waiting to welcome you – whoever you are, wherever you live and whatever your circumstances.

Once a month, all members are invited to a meeting where you can get together, chat and listen to some great speakers.

Anyone can attend two Monthly Meetings or try out two Interest Groups for free, before deciding to join u3a Wooler (there may be a small charge, towards room hire).

Following an informal agreement with other u3as in North Northumberland, u3a Wooler members can attend Monthly Meetings and Interest Groups at u3a Alnwick, u3a Berwick and u3a Coquetdale on the same basis.

Usually, full details of u3a Wooler monthly programmes for Film nights and Interest Groups can be found on the u3a Wooler website (<https://u3asites.org.uk/wooler>).

REMEMBER

If you are no longer in full time work or raising a family, u3a gives you opportunities to develop your interests, make new friends and have fun.

Currently, u3a Wooler has twelve Interest Groups - Art Appreciation, Carpet Bowls, Film, Geology, History, International, Painting and Drawing, Philosophical Discussion, Quiz, Reading for Pleasure, Table Tennis and Wine Appreciation - the choice is endless and the decision about what to do is made by the members for the members.

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