

Notes for Monthly Meeting – 1st May 2026

A Warm welcome was extended to all.

Firstly sad news that our longstanding member June Waudby has sadly passed away. June was an integral part of many u3a events over the years and was Secretary on one of the very early Committees. She had a fall last autumn and struggled to regain her mobility and her health.

Her funeral is at 11am on Tuesday 5th May at Darlington Crematorium and u3a members would be very welcome to attend. Her son Graham has asked that we let him know of attendees, just to give an idea of numbers, so please let me know unless Graham already knows you're going.

Groups – a whistlestop tour of Group Developments

Backgammon – sadly folded due to lack of numbers; Mary Chow has had the bright idea for Backgammon to share space with Rummikub 1st & 3rd Thursdays each month at the Friends Meeting House. Please let us know if you would be interested.

Coffee Club -we'd been concerned that numbers had dwindled with the demise of our previous home in Café Zest in Binns. However last month's session was better attended and we hope for even more at this month's: 10:30 on Friday, 15th May at Costa Coffee in Sainsbury's Victoria Road. Please let us know if you're intending to go – we don't usually ask you to book but with numbers being so variable at the moment we just need to check on space availability.

Family History – our new Family History group begins in June lead by Paul Boden – please see attached flyer and let us know if you're interested.

French Conversation is now open to new members, so if you have a reasonable level of French conversational ability please get in touch!

Gardening Club our first meeting was very successful, though we're still shaking down a little and working out who will do what. The next meeting is on 13th May – please contact Claire on 07787 700690 if you'd like to attend.

Lunch Club The next Lunch Club is at Bannatyne Hotel –12:15 for service at 12:30. There are only 30 places so please be sure to book early.

Moto – similar to Coffee Club, numbers have dwindled, but you'd be very welcome to go to the next session at 2:30 next Friday (8th) at the King's Head. You don't have to book but contact Steph (number on sheet) if you have any

questions. Steph has been incapacitated for a while but is hoping to gain opinions and input about the future of MOTO once she's back.

Outdoor Bowls New season starting today 2pm at Hundens Bowls Club. All you need is a pair of flat shoes and £3 - everybody welcome.

You Can Do It! Our new one-hour series of talks and demonstrations begins this month on Thursday, 28th May with a session on Power of Attorney, Wills and Probate. Booking is essential, so please let us know and also cancel if you can no longer attend.

U3a North East Regional Quiz – it's that time of year once again! The summer quiz will be on 17th June at Hurworth Grange Community Centre. Unfortunately we can only have 12 places, so most of us won't get a look in and booking is essential. ****places are now taken but let us know if you'd like to go on the waiting list****

Orchestra North East concert – poster and flyers for concert on the afternoon of Sunday, 5th July are available.

Three Short Walks – Steve. Darlington & Teesdale Naturalists Field Club

Steve Keeney – u3a History Group leader and Committee Member is also a Committee Member of Darlington & Teesdale Naturalists' Field Club. He has used his networking skills to offer a Field Club initiative to u3a members, their family and friends. They are offering three short walks to us, covered by their own insurance arrangements. Details are attached.

Finally, Events

Harrogate Spring Flower Show

Craggside

Keswick

Are all fully subscribed.

Kynren – poster and booking forms are available for our visit on 12th September. Please note that a booking form and payment of deposit is necessary now the event is booked, even if you expressed interest previously.