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Monthly Meeting

7 May 2024 at 2:00 pm

at the Mart

Topic: Beginners Guide to the Galaxy

Given by Dr. Pete Edwards of Durham University

Dr. Edwards is Director of Science Outreach and Science and Society Officer at Durham University. He is also a member of Durham University's Astronomy and Astrophysics group.

As an elected fellow of the Institute of Physics (IOP), he has contributed to the *Teaching Astronomy and Space* DVD (2010-2019) produced by the IOP, as well as the IOP videos *How Big is the Universe?* (2012) and *The Expanding Universe and the Big Bang* (2012).

In 2005, he was chosen to deliver the 2006 IOP Schools' and Colleges' Lecture. This talk, *Gravity, Gas and Stardust*, was broadcast across the UK to over 12,000 14-16 year old students.

He has also worked with TED (Technology, Education and Design) to create the TED-Ed video, *What light can teach us about the universe* (2014).

If you miss the Monthly Meeting you will be able to view Dr Edwards' talk with the video link that will be emailed to all members

For You Diary

Auckland Castle - Thursday 18th July

Join our summer outing to Auckland Castle with its fabulous gardens, museums and galleries.

Auckland Castle, is a former bishop's palace located in the town of Bishop Auckland in County Durham. The building of the castle was probably started by Hugh de Puiset, who was bishop from 1153 to 1195, and completed in the first half of the thirteenth century. It is Grade 1 listed and was a residence of the bishops of Durham from about 1183 and was their primary residence between 1832 and 2012, when the castle and its contents were sold to the Auckland Castle Trust (now the Auckland Project). It still houses the bishop's offices.

The castle is notable for its chapel, described as "one of the finest rooms in North East England" in the Buildings of England series, which was the medieval great hall until it was remodelled by Bishop John Cosin in 1661–65. The woodwork, which includes the pulpit, stalls, and screen, was commissioned by Cosin and combines Gothic and Baroque forms. The castle also contains twelve paintings depicting Jacob and His Twelve Sons by the Spanish painter Francisco de Zurbarán; the thirteenth portrait, Benjamin, is a copy, as the original hangs in Grimsthorpe Castle, Lincolnshire.

Travel:

There are extensive gardens with a Castle Cafe and a Tapas Bar to buy snacks and lunch. Or you can bring a picnic and eat it in the Cafe Courtyard with views of the castle. The Castle and grounds are open 10.30am - 4.00pm. It will take the coach just under an hour from Corbridge and we will plan to be at Auckland Castle for about 10.30am. The coach will pick up at Chollerford, Haydon Bridge, Haltwhistle, Hexham and Corbridge; times will be agreed with the coach company

Tickets:

There are two ticket types. You can choose which ticket you would like and whether or not you would like a guided tour of the castle. Prices include return coach travel.

- a) Castle and Gardens + Faith Museum £33.00 or
- b) Castle and Gardens, Faith Museum and Mining Art Gallery £37.50 plus
- c) For either ticket type add an optional guided tour of the castle £2.50

The guided tour of the castle lasts about 1 hour, plus 15 minutes for questions.

To book please email Margaret at tu3aevents@yahoo.com or ring her on 01434 689123

We Can Be Too Trusting

We lived in Scotland before moving to Hexham five years ago so the warning signs were up when I had an email from a U3A member up there I'd had no contact with since moving. And when I sent a noncommittal reply, back came the predictable request to buy something online for them and they would repay me later! But it turned out I was one of the lucky ones who didn't fall for the scam.

Apparently, the original U3A member fell for a scam email and she sent off money to a friend and the website she went through downloaded some ooh nasties to her laptop which copied her email address book. It took Victim #1 and her daughter over six hours to get the hackers to release her email and I don't know if she had to pay a ransom or what nasty sleeping malware they left on her PC that would emerge later. A convenor friend was given the task of contacting her U3A group about the scam but sadly, two people had already sent off money to Amazon cards.

So, please always be super-wary of all emails and texts, even when purporting to come from friends. People will still like you even if you don't send off money. Given their email may be hacked, try to contact them by their landline or mobile phone or ask a mutual friend to do this. Also, take time to review your email contact list. Any promises of money-off cards or money requests for some dire need belong to the fairy tales like "Your cheque is in the post" and "Of course I'll still love you in the morning..."; they have just been updated for the 21st century.

Northumbria Region u3a Events and Developments

The Committee thought it a good idea to remind members about the Northumbria Region u3a as it hosts and organises a range of interesting events.

Below are some that you might wish to find out more about -

National 'Fit for the Future' update

The Third Age Trust Board have been considering changes that would give u3as more of a voice and would let the Board spend more time on issues that directly affect u3as and networks.

Celebration of Music June 6th

This event is for all u3a members in the Northumbria Region u3a. It will be in the concert room in Sunnyside Club, Sunnyside Road, NE16 5NA

Archaeology Workshop July 8th

A university lecturer-led workshop about the archaeological digs at Lindisfarne and Yeavering,
Venue: Department of Archaeology, Durham University, Dawson Building, South Road, Durham, DH1 3LE
Time: 09.30 – 14.00, Cost: £5

To find out more about Northumbria u3a please go to <https://u3asites.org.uk/northumbria/home>

Please check out the **newly designed** Tynedale u3a web site at <https://tynedale.u3asite.uk>

We hope you find it much cleaner and easier to navigate - do let us know what you think!

The screenshot shows the homepage of the Tynedale u3a website. At the top is a blue header with the 'u3a' logo on the left and 'Tynedale' on the right. Below the header is a navigation menu with links for Home, Membership, Groups, Events, Newsletter, Documentation, and Contact Us. A search bar is located on the right side of the navigation menu. The main content area features a large heading 'Welcome to Tynedale u3a' followed by a paragraph describing the location. A photograph of the Tyne river at Corbridge is shown on the left. To the right of the photo is a list of benefits for retired or semi-retired individuals, followed by a call to action and social media links. At the bottom, there are two sections: 'Why not come and join us?' with a 'Join Here' button, and 'Notices for our Current Members' with links to the latest notices, Facebook group, and meeting venue change. The footer contains the text 'Theme developed by u3a SiteWorks team' and a link to the website terms of use.


u3a Tynedale

Home ▾ Membership ▾ Groups ▾ Events ▾ Newsletter ▾ Documentation ▾ Contact Us

Search ...

Welcome to Tynedale u3a

Tynedale is the huge area of countryside surrounding the market town of Hexham and the village of Corbridge in Northumberland



The Tyne at Corbridge

If you are retired or semi retired and want to

- make new friends
- learn a new skill
- start a new activity
- expand your knowledge
- discuss your interests
- pass on your expertise
- meet others in a social environment

then **Tynedale u3a** is the place for you.

Watch our Youtube video [Tynedale the movie](#)
Learn more [about us](#)
Follow us on [Facebook](#) and [Instagram](#)

We have over fifty activities for you to choose from ranging from art appreciation to wine tasting, bird watching to learning Welsh.

Why not come and join us ?

[Join Here](#)

Notices for our Current Members

Latest Notices

[Our Facebook Group](#)
[Monthly Meeting Venue Change](#)

Theme developed by u3a SiteWorks team
[Website Terms of Use](#)

Group News

Environment Group - 'Can we grow plants for pleasure in a way that is sustainable?'

This talk and discussion led by Marie Addyman got us all thinking more about how to look after our soil, where we source our plants and which plants to grow. Marie stated that we need to look at our plots or gardens as an ecosystem and not take out more than we can put back. Ensure we share our space with other creatures, not be too tidy and check where we can reduce areas which neither help carbon capture nor aid pollination.

Soil is a mixture of both organic and inorganic matter and both are necessary for soil fertility. Incorporating inorganic material to produce calcium carbonate improves soil quality, locks in carbon and can be used to grow anything. To look after our soil use peat free products, mulch rather than dig to increase activity of worms, suppress weeds and feed for example with liquid seaweed and don't use pesticides. In terms of carbon capture use green manure and remineralise the soil e.g. basalt (volcanic rock dust commercially available in some garden centres as REMIN) This is a by-product of quarrying in Scotland which would otherwise be wasted so offsetting any negative transport impact.

In terms of sourcing plants, swap, share and split as much as possible and use nurseries as fairly ethical producers and local plant sales. Garden centres and supermarkets are least ethical, plants are a commodity among other products with staff unlikely to know anything or little about them. They may be peat free but already using pesticides and fungicides and likely bought from abroad which includes transport costs.

Marie suggested growing more native plants and aim for 30% native at least e.g. campanula, campion, cranesbills, foxgloves. Check what is around you and don't divorce from the local area and from nature. Go for a variety of flower shapes, flowering all through the year if possible to help the bees and other pollinators e.g. flies, wasps, birds and wind-blown seed.

Ann Atkinson

Wildlife Group Photographs



Egger Hexham visit by Tynedale U3A

The Egger factory has always been seen as an important part of the Hexham landscape, a large employer, family owned and run, and producing chipboard. However, it was not until the recent U3A tour around the factory that we were to understand just how important this company is, not only to Hexham and the North East, but as one of Europe's most advanced chipboard production factories.

Our very informative guided tour gave us an insight into the size of the Egger operation across Europe and America. The site in Hexham is one of 22 plants worldwide in 11 different countries, with over 11,000 employees and an annual turnover of £4.45 billion. Yes, its global operation is big.



Here in Hexham the factory, originally Weyrock, was taken over by Egger in 1984, to produce chipboard for use in the building trade, for kitchen units, bedrooms, flooring, interior design etc. It was ideally placed so close to Kielder Forest from where it obtains almost all of its timber. The 130 lorries of wood per day, mainly Scotch pine and Sitka Spruce, come from within a 150km radius of the factory, most of the wood being the tops of trees which cannot be used in other wood industries.

On our tour we were shown how the wood is first dried, then turned into wood chips of different grades and sizes. These are then layered down to produce sheets of chipboard 48.5 metres long and 2.6 metres wide. We were all amazed at how the most advanced technology is used in this process. The whole production line is computerised so the quality of the product can be carefully controlled. The chipboard is produced to a tolerance of 0.2 mm thick, with various paper skins attached to the board to give different textures and patterns. Quality control is an integral part of the process, along with scientific testing to ensure the products stand up to wear and tear, surfaces withstand scratching, wine, coffee etc.

Egger is very serious when it comes to having as little impact as possible on the environment. As well as timber from trees they also use recycled wood, putting it back into their processes, or into generating heat and green energy for the factory itself, so they are not dependent on fossil fuels. The chimney we all see bellowing out white clouds is in fact just water vapour, doing no harm to the atmosphere.



Egger also invests in its staff, having their own training academy on site. Apprenticeships are offered in a range of subjects and there is also continual ongoing training for all staff. Here at Hexham, Egger employs over 600 staff, enabling the factory to run 24/7 over 365 days.

It was very interesting to see inside the workings of such a large operation and to understand how the Hexham factory is part of a worldwide operation, still family run by the two sons of the original Fritz Egger, who founded his first factory in Austria in 1961. Thanks to Egger for showing us round and giving us a greater insight into your worldwide operation, although secretly I do still love the idea that you are a factory that makes clouds!!



Georgia Shorrock

Wallington, Attics & Cellars

We arrived at Wallington Hall to join one of several tours organised over the day to explore the seldom seen attics and cellars of this popular National Trust property. I realised that in my many visits over the years I had visited the gardens and grounds, rather than the house itself.

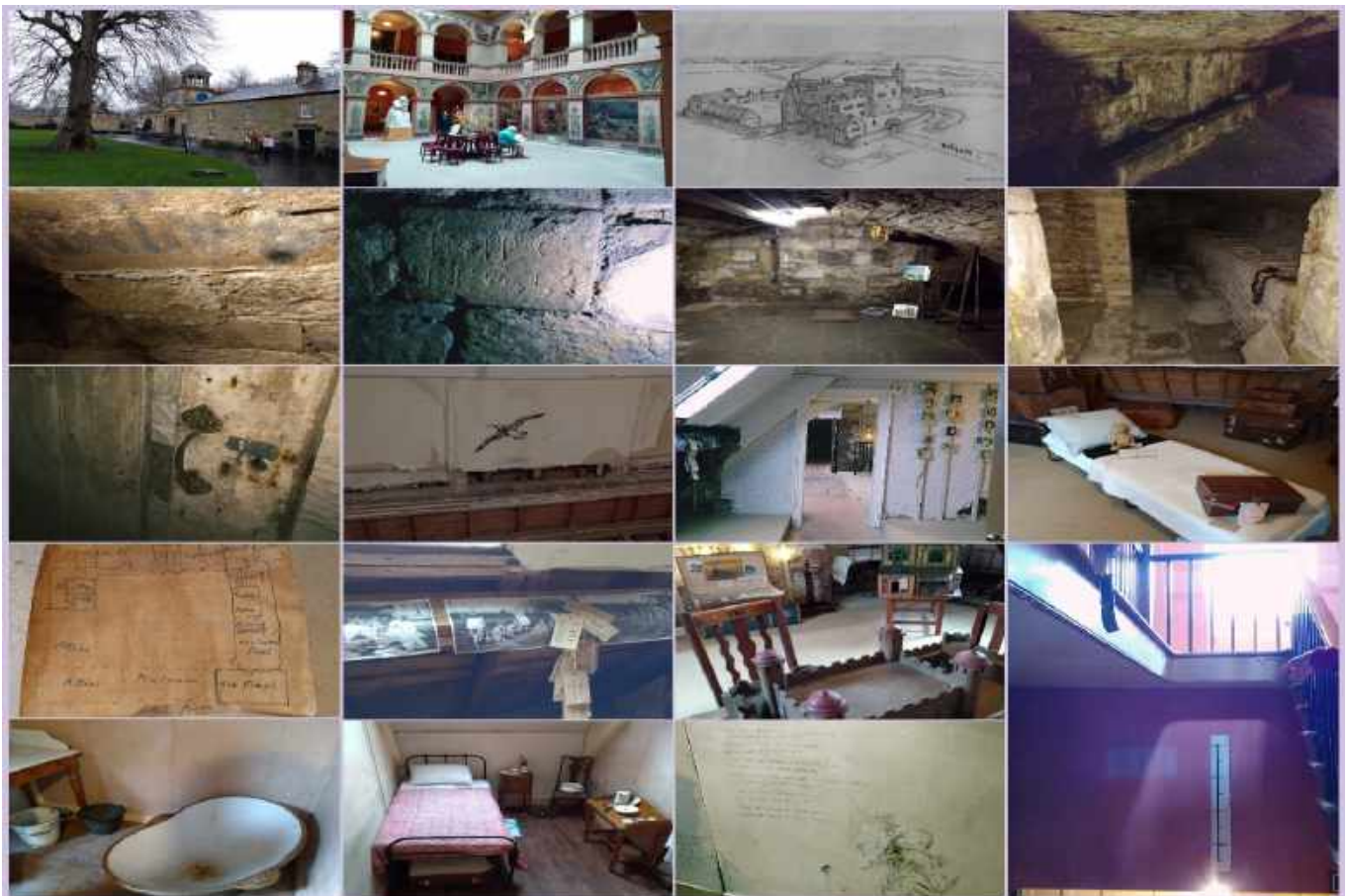
Arriving early for the tour, after a tasty lunch in the cafe, we joined a brief talk on the History of Wallington in the amazing fresco painted central hall.

At 1:30 we met our volunteer guides and other Tu3a members. We donned hard hats before descending to the cellars. These were in fact built as the ground floor of the medieval Wallington which became the foundations of the new Wallington Hall when it came into the Blackett's ownership about 1700. The previous stone floored buildings, with a well, were then used for storage etc. We passed through a Tudor door into the base of the Tudor peel tower with beams supporting the present ground floor. We saw how generations later Trevelyan children had played here; using candle smoke to write on the ceilings and carving "ancient" inscriptions in the stonework.

Climbing the servant's stairs to the attics we learnt the story of the children of Elswick in Newcastle, when Sir Charles Trevelyan, the socialist MP for the area, encouraged their evacuation from the city to his home in the countryside during WW2. The attic rooms also hold abandoned toys, baths, beds and other furniture, reminders of past inhabitants. We were finally shown examples of a tradition of the Trevelyan family for writing poetry on the walls.

Returning down to the main hall we passed the next group setting off on their tour to discover the treasures in store. Thank you to Wendy for organising us and to everyone else involved for this interesting insight into earlier life and times at Wallington.

Jenny Loring



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Membership

591 Members
13 Associates



A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

John Melvin	Neil Hamilton
Colin Pyle	Juliet Lesser
Lesley Duke	Ross Maxwell
Irene Gladstone	Sue Ward
Ian Woods	Paul Woods
Ken Hooker	Keith Young
Irene Young	Kathryn Richmond

Next issue of the newsletter

We very much welcome written contributions and photos from groups and individual members.

Please send your contributions to the newsletter editor, Tim O'Brien, at tyneu3anleditor@gmail.com

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.....

DEADLINE for the APRIL NEWSLETTER

23rd MAY 2024

Forthcoming Monthly Meetings Topics and Speakers

4 JUNE 2024

The Power of Plagues
given by Paul Nash

2 July 2024

How the Industrial Revolution Changed the Art World Forever
given by Ana Flynn

We do hope you have enjoyed this edition of the Newsletter

Please join us on the **Tynedale u3a Facebook** page to keep up to date with information on events, interesting comments from members and engaging photos.



Follow us on Facebook