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Monthly Meeting

2 JULY 2024 at 2:00 pm

at the Mart

Topic: How the Industrial Revolution Changed the Art World Forever

given by **Ana Flynn**

Ana Flynn was a practising artist for 15 years before training at Camberwell College of Arts where she achieved her degree as an object conservator. She gained her post graduate masters in the conservation of easel paintings at Northumbria.

Ana worked as a freelance conservator for two years before joining the conservation team at TWAM as a project conservator for the redevelopment of the Great North Museum, and took up her post as a painting conservator in 2007.

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

Convenors Wanted!

The very good news is that Tynedale u3a now has over 600 members.

A key attraction of membership is being involved in groups to not only explore new areas of interest or deepen existing ones but to enjoy the associated socialising. As you will see in this newsletter new groups are being proposed but more are needed to so that members can enjoy being involved.

To ensure that all members have these opportunities we need Convenors. So if you are at all interested in starting up a new group please do contact Michael Brockway, Groups Liaison Secretary, at mjb.TyndaleU3a@proton.me

For Your Diary

Auckland Castle - Thursday 18th July

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

- 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

Contact Margaret Wall at tu3aevents@yahoo.co.uk or call 01434 689123

I just saw a grandfather help a youngster who was staring into his phone cross the road safely.

Patient: "Doctor, you have to help me, I think I can see in the future."

Doctor: "When did it start?"

Patient: "Next Friday."

When you're 20 and you drop something, you pick it up.

When you're 80 and you drop something, you decide you don't need it anymore.

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An older man, living alone, decided he wanted to add a pet companion. After thinking long and hard about the decision, he buys a parrot and brings it home. However, the parrot almost immediately starts insulting him and being very rude. Furious, the man picks up the parrot and chucks it into the freezer to teach it a lesson. But when the bird stops squawking, the man panics and opens the freezer. The parrot walks out, looks up at the man, and says, "I apologize for offending you, and I humbly ask your forgiveness." The man replies, "Well, thank you. I forgive you, and I'm sorry too." The parrot then says, "If you don't mind my asking... what did the chicken do?"

Write Action

Our TV screens and radios are increasingly filled with tales of woe about poor or often non-existent customer service and one wonders if the world has gone even more mad than usual. For any business, happy customers buy your goods and services and tell others. That's what pay the staff salaries and shareholder dividends, so I find it hard to understand why firms don't invest in good customer service people. At least one bank will not accept instructions by letter which some allege it is to designed to bully all customers into going online, but having telephone-only communications is limiting with 900,000 people with a serious hearing loss.

When it comes to complaining about this week's poor customer service, letters can be very effective. Consumer programmes tell tales of people spending hours making repeated phone calls to no avail. But what seems to work in many cases is a written letter to the chairman or chief executive. Names and addresses can usually be found on their websites but Companies House can prove useful sometimes <https://www.gov.uk/get-information-about-a-company>. The Information Commissioner's Office also has a the official register of Data Protection Officers <https://ico.org.uk/ESDWebPages/Search> and that can be useful to stop emails and calls if the sender isn't a scammer. If you suspect fraud, you need to forward the email to the National Cyber Security Centre at report@phishing.gov.uk.

The great thing about a snail mail letter though is that it gives you an audit trail to prove what you did and when. Some large companies, GP practices and others should belong to the Magic Circle as internal records of phone conversations as well as emails can disappear before you can say Abracadabra. Your letter can be hugely important in evidence if you later complaint to the Ombudsman, the Parliamentary and Health Services Commissioner or just seek to collect your pound of flesh or £500 via Money Claims Online or the Small Claims Court.

I've been using email since 1983 but 40 years on, paper letters and Postman Pat continue to bring me health, wealth and happiness.

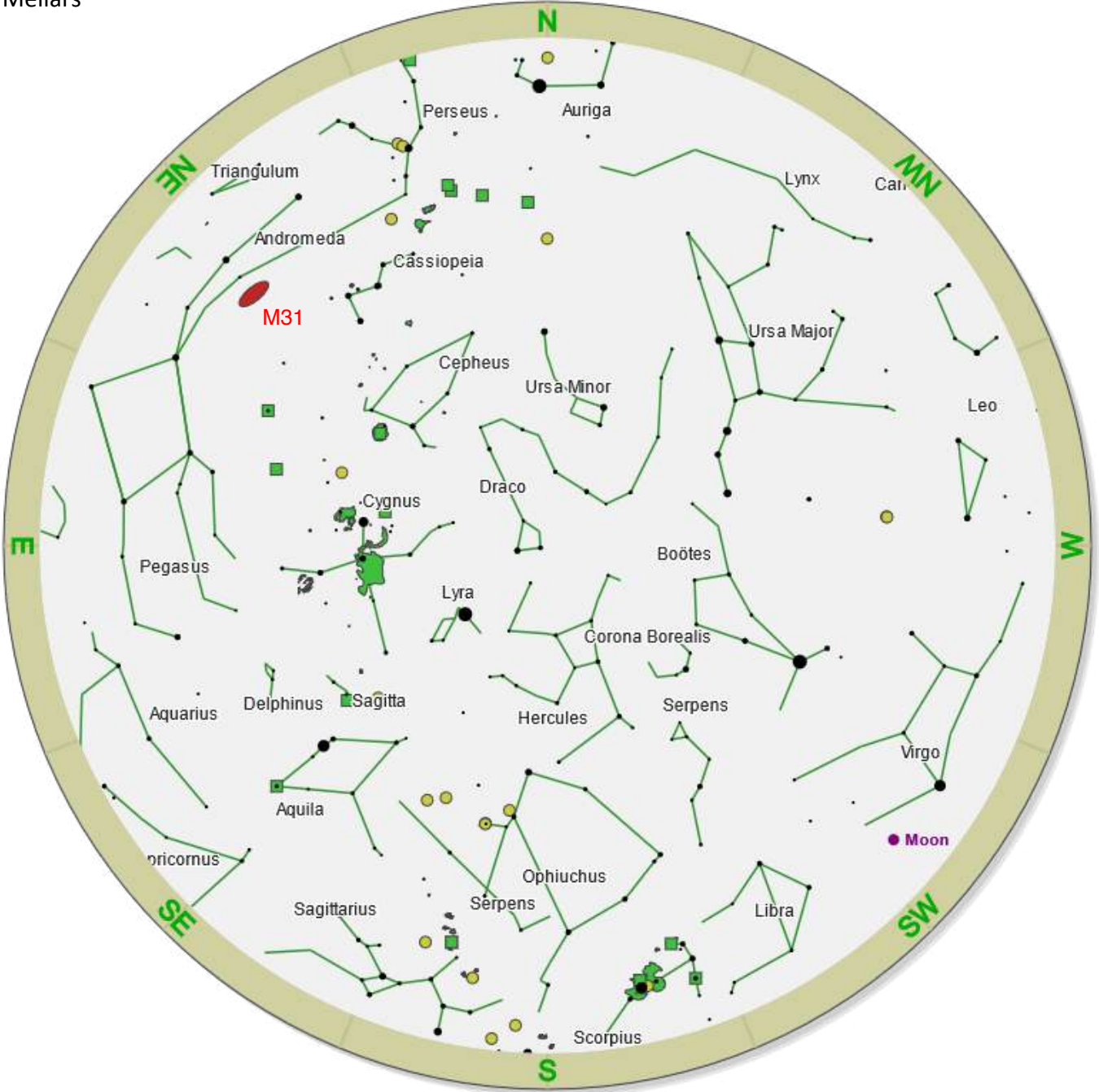
Mike Forster

Night Sky June 2024

We are now past the Summer Solstice on the 21st of June but the night sky will continue as a twilight for most of the month. Worth looking out for this month is the only galaxy visible in the northern night sky with the naked eye and is designated M31 and is located just below the constellation Andromeda the Chained Woman. First described by Edwin Hubble in 1923 it was evidence that there were other galaxies other than our own. Of the planets only Saturn and Mars are visible this month

The constellations that are dominant this month are Boötes, Corona Borealis and Hercules, as they sit in the south. Slightly eastwards but well-placed is Lyra, with its bright star Vega. Cygnus is well-placed in the east. The spring constellations of Virgo and Leo move westwards.

Barrie Mellars



Thanks to Elan Valley Night Sky Project
elanvalley.org.uk

Group News and Visits

U3A Hexham Environment Group

Pesticides and Herbicides,

The agribusiness industry claims that while the hazards of pesticides are well documented, their benefits are largely ignored. The benefits claimed include increased crop and livestock yields, improved food safety, improved human health, quality of life and longevity, reduced drudgery, reduced energy use, and reduced environmental degradation. This presentation is focussed on their potential problems, particularly with food.

The UK Government monitor and define the Maximum residue levels (MRLs) allowable for both domestic and food and imports. It is the maximum concentration of a pesticide residue in or on food or feed that is legally tolerated when applied correctly. The Market size of the UK industry was £1.0bn in 2023, estimated at 18M kg per year. The UK treated land area has increased from 59 million spray hectares in 2000, to 73 million in 2016. The number of active ingredients being applied to a UK field has increased from 12.8 per ha in 2000, to 15.9 in 2016. UK 2020 usage: Fungicides 38%, Herbicides 34%, Growth regulators 10%, Seed treatments 9%, Insecticides & nematicides 7%.

Pesticides have the potential to: harm farmers when sprayed. To harm people when the crop is eaten. To harm insect, bird, and wildlife. They can wash into the water supply and harm animals and people, and can harm people who use that water for cooking, bathing, and drinking. Pesticides are often applied in combination, so creating a synergistic cocktail which can change or amplify their impact on wildlife.

Recent Friends of the Earth Policy Report Conclusions. A tendency by farmers for a prophylactic use of pesticides as a first resort. A risk-averse culture, with pesticides used as an insurance to protect crops. A focus on yield as a priority driven in part by the Common Agricultural Policy. Farmers reliance on risk averse agronomists for advice. Agrochemical company agronomists are under pressure to promote sales. Peer pressure affects farmer behaviour. An insistence by supermarkets and consumers for (unnecessarily?) high food aesthetic standards.

Recommendations. A new system of pesticide measurement is needed. Reduction of the overall toxic load on the environment is imperative. Integrated Pest Management must be promoted. Clear targets and guidance must be incorporated into national policy.

Pesticide Action Network UK <https://www.pan-uk.org/> Promoting safe and sustainable alternatives to hazardous pesticides. Calls for a ban on urban pesticides. Recommends that washing or peeling fruit and vegetables can reduce exposure to surface pesticide residues, but cannot remove 'systemic' pesticides absorbed by a plant.

Colin Gallagher

The Create and Craft Group

Enjoying a joint Craft session, making cyanotype pictures, on a rather cloudy rainy afternoon, luckily the clouds parted just in time to allow the UV rays through to cure the chemicals and produce these lovely pictures.



Group News and Visits

Play a musical instrument and would like to be playing with others – so let's form a band!

Many of you might have seen the article in the Third Age Matters Spring edition this year entitled: 'Music let's keep rocking'. This was an account of how a band has been formed by the members of Bishop Auckland u3a. If you didn't see the article or have already recycled the magazine then you can look it up at: https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/publications/u3a-matters-spring-2024-screenreader-edition#toc_29). I know that there are many people in Tynedale u3a who love music with a strong rhythmic base and in this area, we have great facilities to watch, practice and even perform - should it ever come to that.

So, if you play an instrument and would like the opportunity to meet up and create music with other players on a regular basis, then this is for you. It is proposed that the group formed should play a broad range of music derived from the folk, country, blues, jazz, latin and rock. If you can play, but are a bit rusty, this is the ideal chance to dust off your instrument and come along for a play with other like-minded people. Drums/percussion, piano/keyboards, stringed instruments and brass/woodwind would all be welcome to join and find a place in a single large band or perhaps smaller combinations. Singers who don't play might be able to join in once a band is up and running but the prime requirement is to get a band of instrumentalists together.

Daytime meeting and playing space is available in/around Hexham for get-togethers on a weekly/fortnightly/monthly basis – time, day, and frequency to be agreed.

In the short term, I propose that we have a short introductory meeting in Hexham to exchange ideas and plan how we might get together to play. Ideally, that meeting would be in September and from that we can plan and book sessions through the Autumn/Winter season. We would essentially operate as a u3a group, and I'm happy to take on the initial role as 'convenor'. Please note that I am not/have never been a professional musician or received much tuition or training, (I was actually an engineer by profession). I have, however, participated in many types of music playing and band practice/performance as a 'hobbyist' over the years. Do get in touch with me if you are at all interested by email at arwoolley@hotmail.co.uk and I can get back to you for a chat if you would like.

Looking forward to hearing from you,
Adrian Woolley

Real Ale Appreciation Group

I am hoping to start a new Real Ale Appreciation Group.

It would entail meeting once a month at a pub to sample real ales along with a meal or a snack. We would also have trips to local breweries for talks, as well as visiting local festivals and tastings, either during the day or early evening.

As a guide it would cover the area between the Newcastle and Carlisle rail route, although the finer details can be discussed and agreed at our initial meeting.

If you are at all interested please email me at bewick.mike@gmail.com

Mike Bewick

Group News and Visits

NORTHER ROCKS GROUP - BLANCHLAND GEO TRAIL June 2024 Led By Mike Bewick and Jane Getliffe



On a slightly damp Tuesday afternoon the 11 old rockers set off to investigate the history of lead mining and social history of Blanchland and surrounding area.

After a brief introduction, we set off up the hill to see evidence of the shildon mine tunnel next to Shildon burn. Then continued up the hill with weather improving to see other evidence of lead mining.

Shildon Village would have been a bustling village home to c150 people in sandstone cottages, near here was Shildon Engine house built in a Cornish mine style, originally steam power but reverted to water on efficiency grounds, also used as accommodation for mining family's and came to be known as Shildon Castle.

On right side of track can be seen evidence of soft flaky shale, also a fenced off deep shaft for ventilation for the mines, also examples of a barn made of sandstone also sandstone drystone walls. On the fields are examples of flat topped terraces which feature across the North Pennines, caused by weathering of the sandstone and shale.

Further on we came to Pennypie house where it is alleged they sold pies for a penny to the drovers and mine workers. Turning left across the moor we saw evidence of an old quarry and the soil heaps from the bell pits, the distance of one of the many chimneys which took the fumes from a lead smelt mill further down, also hidden in the trees a pump house.

Continuing down to Baybridge and along the river to a shale bank to see some evidence of galena and purple fluorite. Then back to Blanchland passing bedded sandstone an example of when rocks were deposited as sand in ancient river deposited as sand. Then on to the Lord Crewe for refreshments.

More information can be found at -

<https://northpennines.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Blanchland-Geotrail.pdf>

Wine Appreciation Group 2

As a group we have been meeting for over a year at houses of the various members from Corbridge Ponteland and Great Whittington, who pick the wines and theme.

We have sampled wines from around the world, based on the grapes and found terroir is very important to the style of the style and taste of the wine with the same prominent grape.

Last month we tasted Rose' from the following countries -
Flor de Muga – Grenache from Spain Chapel Down Rose' Pinot Noir England
Craggy range Merlot /Tempranillo New Zealand Trivento ,Malbes,Argentina
Whisperong Angel Grenache/Cinsault

We then go through trying to guess the grape, country and price, the group has limited success with this often getting one or two but never all three on the one selection.

We are a very relaxed group and enjoy learning more about wine.

Unfortunately we are full at the moment, though watch out for vacancies.

Group News and Visits

Visit to Ushaw

On a bright (but very chilly!) June day, a group of 20 U3A members had the privilege of visiting Ushaw, on a beautiful, remote hilltop in County Durham. Ushaw is now a fascinating visitor centre with attractive gardens, historic buildings to explore, a hub for arts and musical activities and a venue for a wide range of events from concerts to classic car rallies! During our visit we were able to see some of the display of 100 years of wedding dresses. Until 2011 Ushaw was a Roman Catholic school and seminary – teaching and training young men from the age of 11 in preparation for an anticipated life in the ordained Priesthood.



In the morning we had a tour of the main house, chapel and gardens. Our guide for the tour was a former pupil. He explained the history of the buildings and how, being built in 1804 before the Catholic Emancipation Act, the seminary needed to be built hidden away from the rest of society for the safety of its population. He delighted us with anecdotes about student life while showing us some of the halls, chapels and galleries. We learned that during his schooldays of the 1960s, Ushaw was a wholly self-contained community, with its own farm, infirmary and even cemetery!

Ushaw is the only building where the work of 6 members of the Pugin family can be seen under one roof.

We enjoyed lunch in “The Parlour” – The professors’ exclusive dining room before heading to the “Big Library” for our afternoon session led by the librarian



The library holds an astonishing array of ancient books, many first editions and unique ancient texts, which are still in demand by scholar from all over the world. The librarian had chosen a number of items to show us, including a letter written in code by King John of Portugal, concerning the arrangement for his daughter Catherine of Braganza to marry Charles II. A personal favourite was a goatskin bound volume of the Bible from 1510, printed in Hebrew, Latin and Greek – the whole Bible required 6 volumes. We were also shown not only a first edition of Galileus’ *Systeme of the World* but also the volume of *Index Librorum Prohibitorum* in which the same Galileus book was listed as banned!



Liz Brittlebank

Calling all Tynedale u3a Dogs - Walkies Time



If you enjoy gentle walking in the company of other dogs in lovely countryside and often by water where we can merrily splash together then suggest to your owner it would be a good idea to join the Walking with Dogs Group. We can ignore the happy banter and gossip of the owners as we chase balls, sniff interesting smells and wander off to roll in fascinating scents.



As we know our owners rather enjoy ending the walks in cafes, so there are definite opportunities for us to be given our well earned treats.

So, collar your owner to take the lead and contact the Convenor, Mon, at richfordfamily@yahoo.co.uk

Group News and Visits

Garden Visits Group

At the end of May we had a last minute change to our schedule and decided to visit Longframlington Gardens and Plant Centre. We were blessed with good weather, no rain!

However, the gardens were a disappointment and not quite what we were expecting. Sadly, they need a bit of work and have become very overgrown, although there are still some areas of interest and plants to buy; one of our group returned home with a white flowered Wisteria. We ended our visit with a very tasty late lunch at the Running Fox in Long Framlington.

In June we visited a private garden in Heddon-on-the-Wall. The garden owners had maximised the use of the "town garden" space with a very varied collection of plants; all healthy and well tended. The peonies were spectacular. As ex-farmers there were also lovely stone farm troughs, filled with all sorts of different plants, some of which had been imported from America and elsewhere. We learned that imported plants have to go into quarantine and, of course, often don't survive unless they are in tuber form.



Group News and Visits

HADRIANS WALL GROUP - Outing to Discovering Roman Carlisle Archeological Dig.

In our region at the moment, we are a hotbed of archeological discovery, mostly Roman in origin. So as a group passionate about all things Roman on our doorstep, we are spoiled for choice just now regarding experiencing some of these exciting discoveries.

The last few years have seen some exciting discoveries in Carlisle at the Cricket club. A roman bath-house has been excavated and within the complex many Intaglios (charms often set in the form of rings) in the drains of the structure, presumably having slipped off their owners in the process of their bathing routine. These are just an example of many significant finds there that help us know more of the lives of the people who frequented the baths.

The group had a very informative guided tour of the archeological excavations currently underway. They met and talked with the lead archeologist Frank Gecco and saw the process of washing and logging the finds of the previous days.

Afterwards, after a pleasant lunch at the Castlergate Coffee House, there was a walk through the city led by one of our members Val, revealed several Roman sites of interest, including remains of the Roman bridge which spanned the Eden and Caldew, that were discovered in 1951 when dredging of the river took place and are now on display in Bitts Park.

If you might be interested in joining the group, please contact Carole carolesoul@gmail.com for more information.

Carole Soulsby Co-Convenor



Group News and Visits

Environment Group trip to Middleton North Estate

Members of Environment Group were joined by a few members of the Wildlife group to enjoy a walk along the Wannie Line, a section of the Old North British Railway, in the company of Charlie Bennett, owner of Middleton North, and ornithologist Michael Turner.

Charlie gave us a brief history of the railway line and the estate and explained how they are creating an environment where animals, insects and wildflowers can thrive. This involves taking the arable land back to grass, a herbal rich ley which is ideal for the farm animals and also provides food for other animals and insects, a wildlife rich habitat of meadows and woodland. Projects include planting additional woodland, ponds and hedges and saving the native white clawed crayfish.

A wetland habitat created in the old quarry has a bird hide and formed part of our walk. Wildlife has increased significantly on the estate and alongside seeing badger sets, a roe deer and hearing many birds, (if not always seen) on our walk, Michael assisted in identifying the sounds of the wren, dunnock, garden warbler, chaffinch, yellow hammer, white throat, long tailed tit for example. His knowledge of birds was enlightening and we all came away better informed.



We would welcome more members to join the Environment Group

You can enquire through the Tynedale U3a website tynedale.u3asite.uk

Your committee

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Membership

606 Members
13 Associates



A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Fintan Hayes
Kathleen Johnson
Elspeth Allen
Philip Colgan
Gillian McKeever
Robert Soulsby
Pauline Hargraves
Glen Graham
Graeme Kyle
Janet Ingham
Fran Fuller
Jill Dixon

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.....

Remember, there is no newsletter in August... so for the September Newsletter the deadline is 22nd August

Forthcoming Monthly Meetings Topics and Speakers

3 September 2024
The Day the Music Died
given by Keith Prosser

1 October 2024
The Reivers
given by Maks Loth

We do hope you have enjoyed this edition of the Newsletter
Please join us on the **Tyndale u3a Facebook** page to keep up to date with information on events, interesting comments from members and engaging photos.

