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Monthly Meeting

at the Mart

6th January 2026 at 2:00 pm

Radio Nostalgia

Memories of the Light programme from 1945 to 1967

Given by **Colin Argent** and **Ian Diggory**

Colin and Ian first met in the 1980s when Colin was head of a group carrying out research into pipeline corrosion at British Gas' Engineering Research Station (ERS) and Ian was an independent technical software consultant at ERS. Following its closure in 1996, Colin set up a company with three colleagues from ERS and Ian's existing consultancy soon merged into Colin's company. The company was successful and eventually became part of the Rosen Group, the global leader in pipeline inspections.

Colin retired, joined the u3a Geology Group, then helped set up the Landscape and Space Exploration Groups. On the grounds that Ian had studied cosmic rays at Durham University, Colin persuaded him to contribute to the Space Group.

Colin then took on the role of Group Liaison Secretary, Ian became the Space Group convenor and both served on the u3a committee.

Colin continues to compile and present talks on a variety of disparate topics, whilst Ian continues his attempts to organize monthly meetings.

*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*

Chairs Report – January 2026

Here we are at the beginning of a new year with all that promises. We have a lot to live up to after last years visits to plays, mines, stately homes and even a car factory as well as a hugely successful summer garden party at the racecourse.

Somebody asked me recently why they should join u3a and I gave him a list of all the various visits and talks and he immediately signed up. I met him at a New Members meeting and he is now in three groups and looking forward to the New Year.

This year our Program Master Ian Diggory has a full list of talks for the monthly meetings all of which will continue to be available by video link shortly after the event. In addition our Events Secretaries tell me that they have a variety of visits planned and I know our Groups Liaison Secretary Steve Rozario is busy organising the Groups Convenors lunch.

This gives me a chance to thank our Committee members all of whom so generously give of their time and without whom we simply could not function.

In March we will be bidding farewell to a couple of committee members and thanking them for their service so for all of you out there who have a wish to help to continue to make our u3a successful and enjoyable for all, I urge you to think seriously about taking up one of the coming vacant posts as Newsletter Editor and Committee Secretary. All the committee contact details are available on the website.

As the old year wound to a close it was a good time to remember some of those no longer with us who have contributed greatly to u3a and give thanks for their company.

But is now a time to look forward and see what we can achieve in the coming months (and hope for a good summer!).

So on behalf on myself and the hard working committee I would like to wish you all a bright and prosperous New Year.

Barrie

Author Event Thursday 26th February 2026 at 2pm in the Great Hall in Hexham Abbey

A Talk on: Writing Crime Fiction given by Mari Hannah

Mari Hannah is a multi-award winning bestselling author and screenwriter. She is the creator of three different crime series: Ryan & O'Neil, Stone & Oliver, and Kate Daniels. All of these are set in and around Newcastle and Northumberland. She lives in a small Northumberland village with her partner, who is a former murder detective. Mari will tell us about her experience of writing crime fiction. This will cover how she got into it and where it's taken her.

She will lead up to the inspiration behind her latest book, which is 'Her Sister's Killer'. This was chosen by The Times as one of the best crime fiction books in 2025.

There will be a Q and A session following her talk.

The meeting is being put on by Book Group 4 and is open to all members of the Tynedale U3a. It will be followed by tea and biscuits and the opportunity to buy Mari's books.

We will be asking for a small contribution from attendees of around £3-4, at the end, to help to cover costs.

Julia Madgwick

Events

Wallington Afternoon Tea - Tuesday, December 2nd.

A large group of us turned out on a beautiful sunny day to Wallington Hall. After a few of us had a wander round the gardens, walled garden, shop or had a quick drink in the café, we were met at the front door of the house and welcomed into the main hall where there was a magnificent Christmas tree and tables set for tea. We were given an introductory talk and one of our own, Katie Abbott, gave us a talk about her experiences of holidays at Wallington. Her grandfather gifted Wallington to the National Trust, so she was well informed to recount tales of the house as a child, teenager and adult. After a hot chocolate, our delicious afternoon tea was brought out, with tea or coffee. We were accompanied by an amazing pianist, who played a range of Christmas tunes. As people finished their tea, they were able to wander round the ground floor of the house in which every room was decorated. The walk back to the car park was lit with festoons of lights. It was a lovely start to the festive season and I think that we all thoroughly enjoyed the day.

Fran Fuller



Cryptic Crossword Answers

ACROSS

- 8 Make listener listen, finally (4) EARN
9 Alien swallowed football team searching for way out (4) EXIT
10 Unit I arranged for northern folk (50) - INUIT
11 Come with team to play at former Olympic host (6) MEXICO
12 Footman in black-eyed make up (6) LACKEY
13 Awesome couple of bones (5) RADII
14 Return to centre of Playa de Noche, eventually (3,3) ONE DAY
17 New map revised for hock (6) EMPAWN
20 In a hard arrangement, he stone-walled! (7) HADRIAN
21 Horace wrote in Latin to create a stately hymn (7) CHORALE
23 Fly! Retreat of Roman is repeated (6) TSETSE
26 Put passport in sleigh, and sauntered off, shiftily (6) SIDLED
28 First, go and make me an unspectacular mark (5) GAMMA
29 Substitute for pretence (6) ACTING
31 Pleasant view, or missing hat (6) PANAMA
33 The short card dealer had a nasty cough (5) CROUP
34 Sounds as though you need a clothes horse to hang out here (4) EIRE
35 This sounds restrictive, and it can be hard to dispose of (4) SELL

DOWN

- 1 Phil audibly eats messily (4) SATE
2 Acceptable direction of breeze lets you relax (6) UNWIND
3 Yankee follows father to brothers' house (6) PRIORY
4 Confused, discontented person lured by spoil (7) PLUNDER
5 Be beyond the pale and exceed in untruth (6) OUTLIE
6 Hot headgear for military policemen (6) REDCAP
7 I become exhausted, but I rest inside (4) TIRE
15 Finish and head off signal to invest (5) ENDUE
16 Donkey runs around road. Something's wrong (5) AMISS
18 Drama origin reveals Oceanic native (5) MAORI
19 Take advantage of a face covering, by the sound of it (5) AVAIL
22 Open spaces where crossing the floor is not done (7) COMMONS
24 Tragic, poetic alternative capital (6) TAIPEI
25 Holder is, for example, a big supporter (6) EGGCUP
26 Muse initially sought ancient philosophical poet, honoured once (6) SAPPHO
27 Sort of desperate pastry (6) DANISH
30 One little bird, not a thousand, would be elegant (4) CHIC
32 Secret agent in burrow (4) MOLE



The **U3A Real Fires Group** always meets on the 4th Thursday evening of the month. At December's meeting they had an unexpected visitor.

The **U3A Dog Walking Group** would like to thank the **U3A Knot Theory Group** for their assistance this month.



Quick Crossword Answers

ACROSS

- 8 Gain by effort (4) EARN
- 9 Departure from the stage (4) EXIT
- 10 Indigenous inhabitant of North America (5) INUIT
- 11 Country officially consisting of United States in central America (6) MEXICO
- 12 Low grade, obedient servant (6) LACKEY
- 13 Lines between the centre and the circumference (5) RADII
- 14 Twenty-four hours (3,3) ONE DAY
- 17 Deposit article in return for cash loan (6) EMPAWN
- 20 Long-gone mural creator (7) HADRIAN
- 21 Form of composition favoured by J. S. Bach and others (7) CHORALE
- 23 Unpleasant fly (6) TSETSE
- 26 Crept up surreptitiously (6) SIDLED
- 28 Ray, or third Greek character, or poor exam mark (5) GAMMA
- 29 Temporarily occupying a position (6) ACTING
- 31 Stylish headgear from central America (6) PANAMA
- 33 Childish inflammation of the larynx and trachea (5) CROUP
- 34 Alternative name for the Irish Republic (4) EIRE
- 35 Dispose by trading (4) SELL

DOWN

- 1 Provide what is needed, and more (4) SATE
 - 2 Relax (6) UNWIND
 - 3 Monastic foundation (6) PRIORY
 - 4 Ill-gotten goods, and how to get them (7) PLUNDER
 - 5 Be located far from the centre (6) OUTLIE
 - 6 Scottish goblin with blood-stained headgear, Derbyshire chicken and MP in the forces (6) REDCAP
 - 7 Exhaust (also found on the wheel of an American automobile) (4) TIRE
 - 15 Provide with quality or power (5) ENDUE
 - 16 Not entirely right (5) AMISS
 - 18 Indigenous antipodean (5) MAORI
 - 19 Take advantage, oneself, of an opportunity (5) AVAIL
 - 22 Powerful House which sometimes experiences dissolution (7) COMMONS
 - 24 Capital of the other Chinese Republic (6) TAIPEI
 - 25 Oval container (6) EGGCUP
 - 26 Lyric poet from Lesbos (6) SAPPHO
 - 27 Persian name meaning wisdom (6) DANISH
 - 30 Stylish (4) CHIC
 - 32 Underground spy (4) MOLE
-

Newsletter Quiz December 2025 - The Answers

- 1. Which AA is a poetic name for water? **Adam's Ale**
- 2. Which AA is the author of the plays Absurd Person Singular and The Norman Conquest? **Alan Ayckbourn**
- 3. Which A was rescued by, and then married to Perseus? **Andromeda**
- 4. Which highly toxic A was once used cosmetically? **Arsenic**
- 5. Which A is the furthest point from the sun in a planets orbit? **Aphelion**
- 6. Which A was the Greek goddess of love? **Aphrodite**
- 7. Which AA is the name which eighties pop singer Stuart Goddard used? **Adam Ant**
- 8. Which A describes a final earth shattering battle? **Armageddon**
- 9. Which A is a metal, with the chemical symbol Sb? **Antimony**
- 10. Which AA is a TV series of the 1960s featuring Gerald Harper in the title role? **Adam Adamant**

Submitted by Barrie Mellars, to whom all groans should be sent...

Environment Group - Air Quality

At the November meeting there was a presentation on Air Quality in the UK.

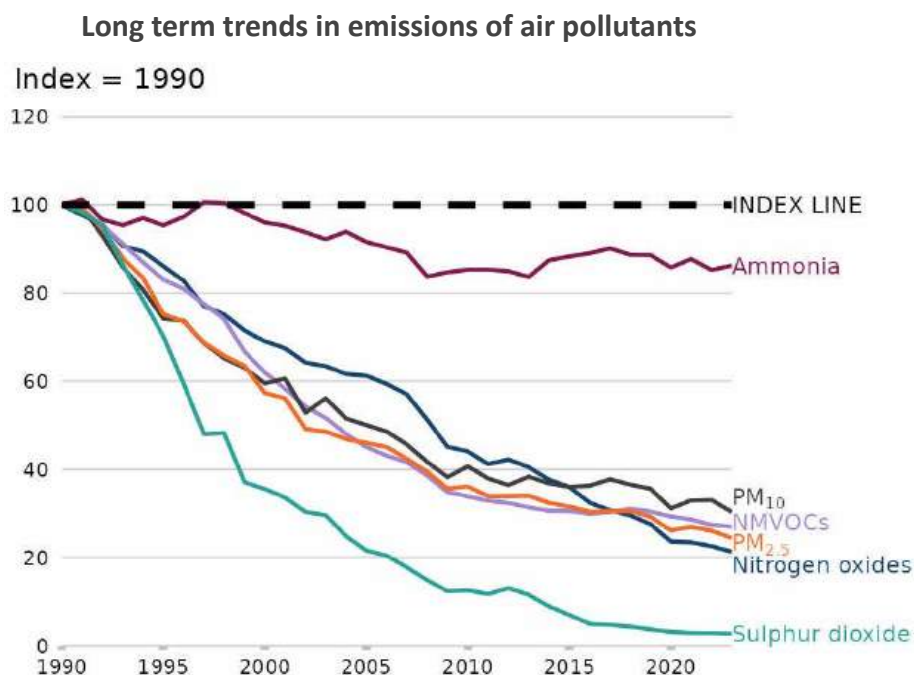
This included the main causes and problems of air pollution and the impact that outdoor and indoor sources can have. Air pollution is a significant problem due to its detrimental effects on human health and the environment.

Whilst the UK's air pollution has dropped since 2015 dangerous levels are still reached too often and ozone increased 17% over the decade. Simultaneous efforts are needed to reduce the volatile organic compounds that fuel the production of ozone at the same time as decarbonising transport, which reduces the amount of nitrogen oxide. Researchers have shown that reducing the amount of particle pollution alone may not reduce its toxicity, unless we also focus on the most harmful sources.

The increased air pollution likely from a third runway for Heathrow was raised and the positive decrease in air pollution from London's low emission zones. Greater public awareness of the benefits of low emission zones in the long run is required. The likely increase in moorland fires from climate change was also raised and the need for upland land management to better reflect climate, health and environmental priorities.

In terms of indoor sources the burning of wood and coal at home is detrimental to health and only 10% of people burn out of necessity. Greater awareness of the public is needed on the health harms of burning wood and other solid fuels at home. Gas cooking appliances are also a significant source of household air pollutants and are present in 54% of households. Use of extractor fans and open windows and doors while cooking is promoted.

Effective air quality management requires scientific evidence in place to support measures to reduce pollution, lobbying to tighten controls, public support and the political will to set emission standards and produce legislation that is enforced.



Dawdling With or Without Dogs Group

Members met at Allen Banks, Bardon Mill, and enjoyed a good walk in surprisingly kind weather. The two accompanying dogs, Sally and Sanna, covered ten times the distance chasing each other at high speed and also having a river swim. New members are very welcome, so please do contact us through the groups section of the website - we look forward to meeting up with you..

Liz Brocklebank *(Sincere apologies from the NL Editor for misnaming co-convenor Mon Richford in the last issue)*



Amusing comments from a book called ‘Disorder in the American Courts’ are real things people said in court and were recorded by court reporters...*contributed by La Contessa....*

ATTORNEY: What was the first thing your husband said to you that morning?

WITNESS: He said. ‘Where am I , Cathy?’

ATTORNEY: And why did that upset you?

WITNESS: My name is Susan!

ATTORNEY: What gear were you in at the moment of impact?

WITNESS: Gucci clothes and Reeboks.

ATTORNEY: Are you sexually active?

WITNESS: No, I just lie there

ATTORNEY: Now doctor, isn’t it true that when a person dies in his sleep, he doesn’t know about it until the next morning?

WITNESS: Did you actually pass the bar exam?

Your committee

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A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Carol Mitchell
Paul Harrison
Grania Rogers

Patrick Feeney
Jacqueline Williamson

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.....

**The Febuary 2026 Newsletter deadline
is 22 January 2026**

Forthcoming Monthly Meetings Topics and Speakers

6th January 2026

Radio Nostalgia
Memories of the Light programme from 1945 to 1967

3rd February 2026

The Natural History of the Ploughman's Lunch
given by Chris Pollock

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.



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