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Monthly Meeting

at the Mart

3rd March 2026 at 2:00 pm

Annual General Meeting

followed by presentations from -

Colin Argent on the Exploits of a Bearded 'Gentleman'

This talk sets the record straight about what was memorable, and what was not in the Summer of 1969. The talk focusses on the exploits of a bearded "gentleman" that Summer and ranges from graduation to bush fires, Kenya to Malawi, bananas to termite mounds, echoes of the Empire, observations on why it hurts to play the guitar and an introduction to an amazing chef. Exploding latrines and warnings on the use of social media may also be on the agenda. In short a catalogue of exploits and failure.

and

John Dark on Lawrence O'Shaughnessy,

the Tyneside Father of Cardiac Surgery and his mysterious sibling!

*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*

**Agenda for Tynedale u3a Annual General Meeting 2026
to be held at 2pm on Tuesday 3rd March at the Auction Mart, Hexham**

1. **Welcome and Apologies**
2. **To approve Minutes of 2025 AGM** (published in the March newsletter)
3. **Chair's Report** (a copy will be published in the April newsletter)
4. **Treasurer's Report** (a copy of the financial statement is published in the March newsletter)
5. **Confirmation in post**

Elections to the Committee:-

- Events Secretary – **Andrew Rigg**
Proposer: Barrie Mellars Second: Steve Rozario
- Newsletter Editor – **Diane Downie**
Proposer: Tim O'Brien Second: Gill Mellars
- Business Secretary – **Roger Hancock**
Proposer: Ann Atkinson Second: Sarah Richard

All other committee members are willing to remain in post.

6. **To approve 'The subscription to remain at £14 per annum'**
7. **To approve Honorary Examiner for 2026** – Mike Bewick
8. **AOB**

A Fond Farewell...

As I will be stepping down as Newsletter Editor at this AGM having completed my three year stint I want to express my gratitude to the Committee members for their support and critical appraisal of the newsletters, to the Convenors and members for their articles, photos and jokes and to my wife for her forensic proof reading.

It has been a genuine honour to follow in the footsteps of the other editors, particularly Alicia Cresswell my immediate predecessor, who all set such high standards.

I have much appreciated the positive feedback and the tolerance of members when matters have gone slightly awry. I hope that you have enjoyed the newsletter and found it of value as a means of feeling connected to Tynedaleu3a and its ever growing membership.

My very good wishes to my successor and I much look forward to seeing the new approach and style.

Many thanks,

Tim O'Brien

Minutes of Tynedale u3a Annual General Meeting 2025 held at 2pm on Tuesday 4th March in the Auction Mart, Hexham

1. **Welcome:** The Chair, Barrie Mellars welcomed all members to the 2025 AGM
2. **Apologies** were received from Jan Steel, Richard Steel, Jenny Loring, Elizabeth Leonard, Adrian Woolley, Julia Woolley, John Harrison, Averil Harrison
3. **Minutes of 2024 AGM** which were published in the March newsletter were accepted as an accurate record.
4. **Chair's Report:** Barrie provided details about the membership which had remained strong and gave recognition to the loss of long term and valued member of u3a, John De Stefano. He also informed members that long term member Margret Jacot was now in Charlotte Straker Hospital at Corbridge and would welcome visits from members. He detailed the key activities of groups, monthly meetings and specialist talks that had taken place over the last year and encouraged groups to arrange more specialist talks and also form new groups. He also made reference to the changes in management at the Third Age Trust. Barrie acknowledged the support that had been provided by the committee and thanked those who had relinquished their roles. Barrie's full report will be published in the April newsletter.
6. **Treasurer's Report:** The Treasurer Kate Stephenson informed that the accounts were in a good condition generally. The main one off costs were the Christmas party, 40 year booklet, sound equipment and software arising from the move to the Mart. National affiliation and newsletter costs had increased. In terms of groups the inflow and outflow had remained static. £73 surplus in events has been moved to general costs. The cash balance is circa £17,000 which is around a £1,500 decrease which is acceptable. Running costs are £12,000 and the recommendation was that membership subscription should remain at the current £14.

The accounts were agreed unanimously.

7. **Confirmation in post**
Elections to the Committee:-
 - Events Secretary – Fran Fuller
Proposer: Richard Dixon Second: Sarah Walsh
 - Group Liaison Secretary – Steve Rozario
Proposer: Colin Argent Second: Gill Mellars

Committee members were confirmed in post by the membership and Fran Fuller identified herself to the membership.

8. **The subscription to remain at £14 per annum** was agreed unanimously
9. **Honorary Examiner for 2025:** Mike Bewick was approved

10. AOB

Wendy Dale raised the importance of having a Vice Chair which currently the committee does not have. She recounted the experiences of previous Chairs who had suddenly had to relinquish their roles as a result of illness and therefore felt that this role should be reinstated. Barrie was supportive of this.

Another member wished to thank the Committee for all their hard work which was very much appreciated by the membership. This was gratefully acknowledged.

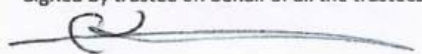
Receipts and Payments Account
Year ended 31 December 2025

	2025			2024		
	GENERAL	RESTRICTED	TOTAL	GENERAL	RESTRICTED	TOTAL
	GROUPS			GROUPS		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
RECEIPTS						
MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS						
ANNUAL	8747		8747	9009		9009
GIFT AID	539		539	551		551
TOTAL MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS	9286		9286	9560		9560
DONATIONS, BOOK SALES ETC.	489		489	499		499
INTEREST RECEIVED	91		91	90		90
OTHER	214		214	17		17
OTHER RECEIPTS	794		794	606		606
EVENT & GROUP RECEIPTS		12774	12774		9441	9441
TOTAL RECEIPTS	10080	12774	22854	10166	9441	19607
PAYMENTS						
AFFILIATION FEES	2922		2922	2839		2839
MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS						
NATIONAL NEWSLETTER	488		488	554		554
TYNEDALE COMMUNICATIONS:	120		120	313		313
PRINTING AND POSTAGE	562		562	707		707
GROUP CONVENORS LUNCH	1035		1035	1145		1145
40 YEAR BOOKLET				598		598
PARTY	1461		1461	1656		1656
TOTAL MEMBER COMMUNICATIONS	3666		3666	4973		4973
GENERAL PAYMENTS						
HALL HIRE	2886		2886	2562		2562
OFFICE EXPENSES	18		18	263		263
SPEAKERS	275		275	490		490
MISC EQUIPMENT	60		60	608		608
MISCELLANEOUS	234		234	48		48
TOTAL GENERAL PAYMENTS	3473		3473	3971		3971
EVENTS & GROUP PAYMENTS		12429	12429		9733	9733
TOTAL PAYMENTS	10061	12429	22490	11783	9733	21516
NET OF RECEIPTS AND PAYMENTS	19	345	364	-1617	-292	-1909
TRANSFER BETWEEN FUNDS						
EVENTS	18	-18	0	73	-73	0
CASH FUNDS LAST YEAR END	17065	2256	19321	18609	2621	21230
CASH FUNDS THIS YEAR END	17102	2583	19685	17065	2256	19321

STATEMENT OF ASSETS AND LIABILITIES AT THE END OF THE PERIOD

	2025			2024		
	£	£	£	£	£	£
CASH FUNDS						
CURRENT ACCOUNT	10914	2583	13497	10958	2256	13214
DEPOSIT ACCOUNT	6188		6188	6107		6107
	17102	2583	19685	17065	2256	19321

Signed by trustee on behalf of all the trustees



CATHERINE STEPHENSON 6/2/26

Honorary Examiner's Report

checked and found to be in accordance with the information provided


MICHAEL RONALD BEWICK
6/2/2026

Events:

1. **"Marley Cote Farm" visit near Slaley.** Wednesday 6th May starting at 6.00 pm. **Now fully booked**

2. **"Egger tour", Hexham.** Wednesday 10th June starting at 10 am. **Now fully booked**

3. **"Harrogate Flower Festival".** Friday 18th September. An all day visit.

Numbers are unlimited and I will be booking 'group tickets', which attract a £5.00 discount on the ticket price.

I do not need names myself now but you are invited to pay Kate Stephenson our treasurer £24.00 per person in the next couple of months (full price £29.00).

Pay: Tynedale u3a Sort Code 20-40-09, A/C 60601209, Reference 'Harrogate', together with your name

Please have a look at their website for details of the show (which is splendid) and the varied attractions at the venue, Newby Hall in Yorkshire.

Transport by car unless we get 50+ people in which case I may organise a bus (at extra cost, of course).

4. **"Summer Garden Party" at the Racecourse.** Wednesday 1st July.

Our chairman Barrie will be advising on the payment method for this in due course. More tickets will be available this year due to the demand after the success of last year's party so again, please do not send names to me but pay direct when requested to do so.

5. **Chillingham Castle visit** is proposed in the summer, with details to be advised probably in August. This is the 13th Century home of the Chillingham wild cattle, gardens designed by Capability Brown, a torture chamber and, to top it all, Britain's most haunted castle.

Andrew Rigg

New Members Coffee Morning.

All members who have joined in the past year, but have not been to one of our Coffee Mornings have been invited to come along on March 11. It will be held in the Prior's Room at Hexham Abbey, starting at 10.30.

There are brief presentations from various committee members about how the u3a works. But it is mainly an opportunity to meet other new members and particularly, to let us on the committee know what you want out of Tynedale u3a.

If you've not had the invitation and would like to come along, please get in touch with the Membership Secretary on tyneu3amemsec1@gmail.com

Book Review: Atonement by Murder

This is the first book in Petr Tremayne's Sister Fidelma series set in 7th century Anglo Saxon times. Fidelma leaves the settlement of Kildare in Ireland to visits a country full of strange people — the Kingdom of Northumbria! It's an accurate observation as the kingdom extended from the Humber to the Scottish border. Sister Fidelma, a highly qualified lawyer, is in what we now call Yorkshire to attend the Synod of Whitby.

Whilst the Columba and Roman factions battle it out in the synod, Fidelma gets involved solving a murder most foul. Lots of historical insights into Anglo Saxon Britain such as the ongoing use of slaves and the very violent justice system.

Highly recommended and copies of books from this popular series are in Hexham Library with Absolution by Murder available as a Talking Book from the RNIB.

Mike Foster

Your committee

Chair

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Treasurer

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Membership

641 Members 16 Associates

<https://tyndale.u3asite.uk/>



A VERY WARM WELCOME TO OUR NEW MEMBERS

Val Conway
Judith Cope
Philip Taylor
David Lockstone
Richard Freer
Tina Carr
Anne-Marie Ingram

Ian Robinson
Iain Stewart
Julie Lockstone
Derek Heritage
Dawn Johnson
Sheila Bull
Owen Ingram

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

The April 2026 Newsletter deadline
is 26 March 2026

Forthcoming Monthly Meeting Topic and Speaker

7th April 2026

Crystal-Ball Gazing: The Future with AI

Given by Nick Rossiter

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.



Follow us on Facebook