u3a learn, laugh, live



Prudhoe & District Notices, November 2026:

Part 1: Information about up-and-coming meetings, events and new groups

Part 2: Recent reports from some groups

Your Committee

Chair:	**Janice Scott**
Vice Chair	**Gill Davies**
Business Secretary:	**Les Mitchell**
Treasurer:	**Barbara Pescod**
Membership Secretary:	**Pauline Williams**
Groups' Coordinator:	**Sharon Neal**
Social Secretary:	**Janice Wilson**
Members:	**Joan Crass, Carol Carden, Ian Warburton.**

Information about u3a

For all information about Local, Regional and National events and activities, have a look at our Website.

Website: prudhoe.u3asite.uk/
Facebook: search ‘Prudhoe u3a’

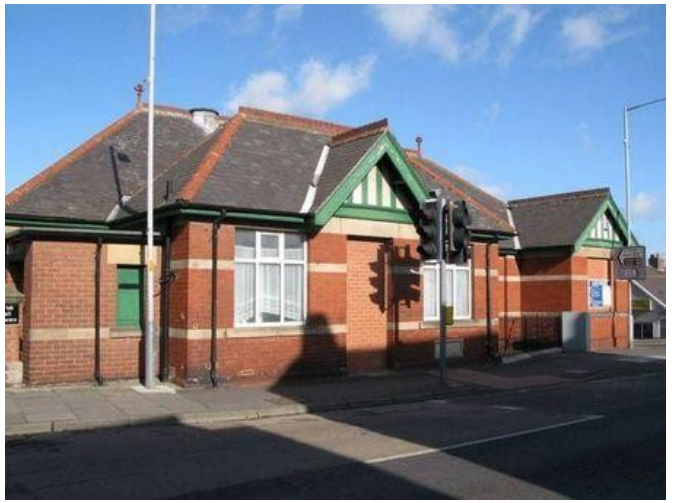
If you would like some help, ask someone on the Committee or your Group or family, to show you how. It is so easy to access.

There are currently vacancies in the following groups

Walking
Gardening
Singing
Strollers
Bridge for Fun
Dance as if No one is Watching
Classical Music
The Craft Group
Nature Watch
Book Club
Lunch Group
Crafts
Creative Writing (online)
Eco Group (online)
Scrabble
Shakespeare Play Reading (1)

Regular P&D u3a meetings

Meeting with speaker:
This meeting is held in the Parish Hall at 10am on the last Monday of the month.



Coffee Plus:
A coffee morning with extras like IT advice, book swap, Scrabble etc.
This meeting is held upstairs in the Spetchells Centre from 10am on the second Tuesday of the month.



P&D u3a Monthly Meetings with Speaker

Date	Event or speaker
Monday 30th November	Christmas Party
December	No Monthly meeting
Monday 25th January	Ben Haddon: Geordie doon the Pit
Monday 22nd February	Alan Ward: A Short History of DNA Sequencing

P&D u3a Other Up-coming Meetings

Date	Event or speaker
Monday 30th November	**Christmas Party**
Friday 11th December	**Christmas Lunch** **See separate slide for details**

Christmas Lunch at the Swan, Ovingham

Friday 11th December, 12 noon for 12.30.

There are still places available for our u3a Christmas Lunch. Do come and join us. There are some great choices including veggie options and small portions and the price is reasonable:

2 courses, small portion £21, normal portion £26 (tip included)

3 courses, small portion £26, normal portion £31 (tip included)

Janice will be at the Monday meeting (30th Nov) with the menus for you to make your choices from and will need your money too.

So, members new and old, please come and join us for a lovely festive afternoon

Christmas at Raby Castle

We’re delighted to offer you an exclusive opportunity to experience Christmas at Raby Castle ahead of the crowds, with a 20% discount when booking online before 26th November.

See recent email from Pauline Williams for more details.



Strollers

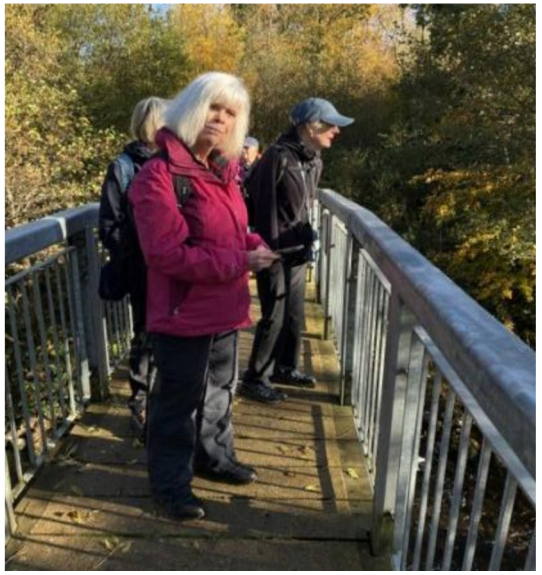
Just 4 of us went for a November stroll in Chopwell Woods, a couple of miles along the old railway track and other good paths, enjoying each other's company and the wonderful autumn colour in the trees. We ended up at the Beat 'n' Track Cafe for very welcome hot drinks.



Walking group

Ten of us enjoyed a 5 mile walk on a beautiful autumn day. From Corbridge we crossed over the railway bridge up over fields to Prospect hill towards Lady Cutter Rd. Crossed over and down towards the new bridge over Devil's Water. There was quite a drop down to the river! After a coffee stop a short incline then towards a T junction where we turned towards the Sensory Garden crossing the main road past Trees Please, over the railway line to the Tyne and on towards Corbridge car park.

Thanks to Maggie for organising this beautiful walk.





Naturewatch – Thornley Woods and Far Pastures



Fungi seen
Yellow Brain or Witches Butter, Turkey Tails, Magpie Inkcap, Pstethyrella, Artist's Fungus, Deer Shield Mushroom, Larch Bolete, Red Raspberry Slime Mould, Rosy Bonnet.

Birds seen
Buzzard, Red Kite, Crow, Longtailed Tit, Blue Tit, Great Tit, Coal Tit, Wren, Robin, Nuthatch, Magpie, Pheasant, Dunnock, Bullfinch, Teal, Mallard, Moorhen, Pigeon











Naturewatch – Ancient Trees- a talk by Jane Young

Jane writes:
As an ecologist I always enjoyed the complexity of plant and animal relationships in woodlands, particularly ancient woodlands. I had also marvelled at the beauty, dignity and historical associations of the really old trees found both in and out of a woodland habitat. Sadly many of these trees had been felled during the 20thC and it was only during the 1990's that their scientific importance was universally recognised. They support an enormous diversity of wildlife, particularly invertebrates, fungi and lichens, some of which are extremely rare.

In 1993 the Ancient Tree Forum charity was set up to protect ancient and veteran trees and 50 were chosen to mark our late Queen's Golden Jubilee in 2002. We looked at some of these and learned about the features of trees in their final third of life and their historical associations and conservation measures, some of which have sadly led to their decline and even death.

Some of the photos used in the talk are shown in the next slide.

Naturewatch – Ancient Trees - Photos



Ancient Armathwaite Yew in Cumbria



Baobab tree in Malawi, possibly 3,000 years old (photo - David Archer)



Ancient Tortworth Sweet Chestnut in Gloucestershire



Ancient Yew at Darley, Derbyshire



Ancient Yews at Stow on the Wold, Gloucestershire



Ancient Yew bark at Borrowdale