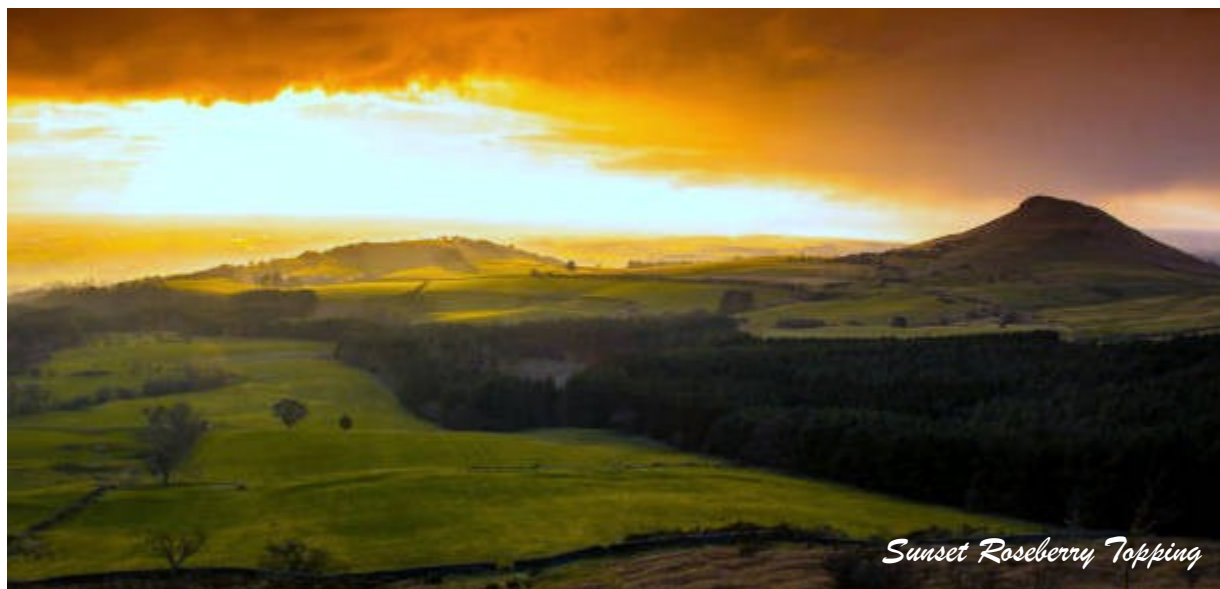


Saltburn District



JUNE 2025

Issue 52

Website: <https://saltburndistrict.u3asite.uk/>

Sunset Roseberry Topping

Embracing Summer and Twenty Years of Togetherness

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Well, here comes Summer! And with it, a perfect opportunity to reflect on two decades of the u3a community. As we look back, we're filled with immense gratitude for every single member who has helped shape this organisation into the truly special place it is today.

In this edition of our newsletter, we revisit AGM Day and the camaraderie of the Group Leaders Lunch. Read about the Writers' Trip to Newcastle Library, get acquainted with our new Chair, admire the talents of our Art Group paintings, and discover the results of the 50/50 Draw. There is a teaser for the Murder Mystery and Marske Produce Show events coming soon. Plus, don't miss Hugh Melvin's personal legacy to the gardening group – a testament to the practical and shared interests that bind us!

Remember, your voice is incredibly valuable. We actively encourage everyone to share their stories, hobbies, knowledge, and experiences with the community. Whether it's a personal reflection that resonates, a creative piece that inspires, or a helpful tip that makes a difference, your contributions are what make our newsletter such a valuable resource for us all.

As we continue to grow and evolve, we eagerly anticipate another 20 years filled with learning, friendship, and community. Thank you for being an integral part of this incredible journey.

Sarah Telfer

Website address: u3asites.org.uk/saltburn

New Chair for 2025-26

Hi everyone – I want to thank the Committee for electing me as Chair for 2025-26. You may be familiar with my name as I have been part of this Newsletter's Team for several years now – a role I plan to continue.

I've been a member of SDu3a since 2010, was on the Committee from 2013 to 2016, two years of which I was Chair. So you could say I've been brought out of retirement! During my 15 years' membership I have attended probably a dozen or more groups, currently enjoying Singing for Pleasure, Zetland Lit. Group, German Conversation and, when I manage to get there, Photography.

There will be a lot to learn and catch up with in my new role – especially as IT has progressed so much since I was last on the Committee and I'm not exactly a tech. expert! But I know I will be ably supported by the rest of the Committee, whether they are returning to serve again or are newbies like me.

Although I know quite a number of people who attend Update, there are also many I do not, so please come and introduce yourself and have a chat. I am not good at remembering names but I will do my best! Come September, I'll also try to pop in to some of the groups to say hello, Anyone can also contact me via our website and I'll be happy to respond or meet with you if you wish.

Tricia Salt

“MONTHLY UPDATE”

THE JULY UPDATE WILL BE ON FRIDAY JULY 4TH

At

SCAA (Saltburn Community Centre) & will also be available on Zoom
on Friday JULY 4TH at 09.45 am.

The order of the morning will be:



- 9.45am – doors open
- Coffee/tea to be served until approx 10.15am
- 10.15am - Business, updates and notices

After the notices there will still be the opportunity to speak to committee members, sign up for groups, continue conversations etc, so don't feel you have to rush away!

Entrance fee remains £1.

THEATRE COFFEE MORNINGS EVERY 2ND SAT. 10 AM - ECHO CENTRE

Article deadline for next newsletter is Friday August 16th

By email to: h.leake@ntlworld.com

Or

By hand to any of the newsletter team.

Northumbria Messenger is available on the Newsletter web site page.

FUTURE UPDATE MEETINGS

June 2025 Talk From TWAM (Tools with A Mission)

July 2025 Desert Island Discs With Louise And Sally

August 2025 TBA

Tricia Salt

Reporting Saltburn District u3a AGM - 2nd May 2025

Saltburn District u3a held its AGM on Friday, May 2nd, 2025. The robust attendance, comprising 74 members in person alongside 2 online participants, 2 proxy votes, and 6 email votes, handily exceeded the necessary quorum of 58 members. Gaye Batiz capably conducted the meeting on behalf of Chair Margo Davidson-Wood, donning an additional hat whenever needed, ensuring a smooth and productive session.

The minutes from the previous AGM, held on May 4th, 2024, were presented and received unanimous approval.

Gaye Batiz then delivered the Trustees' Report, which detailed SDu3a's diverse activities in 69 groups across 17 venues. She also covered the new website launch last year and the engaging programme of Update meetings held throughout the year. A particular highlight was the vibrant 20th-anniversary celebration. The Social Events group also made a significant impact. The Treasurer's report demonstrated sound financials, and good news that group and membership fees would remain the same for 2025-2026.

Significant contributions were recognised from retiring committee and non-committee members who dedicate their time and effort to the smooth operation of SDu3a. Looking ahead, new committee roles for 2025-26 will be decided soon. *(These have now been agreed - see this issue for details of the new Committee.)*

A new constitution has been adopted to modernise governance, ensuring compliance with regulatory requirements.

Following updates on Groups News and the Theatre Group, Gaye Batiz closed another successful AGM meeting. Sound financial management and a proactive approach to governance will ensure a bright future for its engaged membership.

For in-depth details of the AGM, please see the Saltburn District u3a website.

Sarah Telfer

Thank You From Last Year's Chair

When I became a member of SDu3a a couple of years ago, I almost immediately joined the Committee, taking on the role of Administrative Secretary. For the last year I have been proud to be Chair and am truly grateful to the Committee for all their support during that time. I enjoyed my time in this role and found it very rewarding. I am therefore remaining a member this year in order to help as and when needed.

Margo Davidson-Wood

Group Coordinator Report

My first year as Groups' Coordinator has flown by, so as I embark on my second year, I would like to thank all the SDu3a Committee past and present, plus all the Group Leaders who have helped me during this time. It has been very much appreciated.

I also need to thank David Lowe, our Room Booker, who has done a brilliant job in the last year, but has now decided to step down from this role, so a big thank you for all your hard work. We now welcome back Karin Slade who has agreed to take on the Room Booker role. My thanks to her for agreeing to this.

I also need to thank Mike Peacock who has agreed to be our electrical tester. Both he and Louise will be arranging the testing of all electrical equipment to ensure it is safe for use.

Group news

There is going to be another Dementia Awareness Workshop on Monday 22nd September at 2pm. The venue is yet to be confirmed as we need to know numbers before a room can be booked. If you are interested in attending please either contact me to add your name to the list or add your name to the Interest Sheet at Update meetings.

As always, if you have any questions about any of the Groups or if you would like to start up a new group, please feel free to contact me

Diane - Groups' Coordinator

MESSAGE FROM OUR TREASURER

Dear all members

Recently it has become evident that there is an increase in the number of cheques that have been sent to me by post bearing no signature or date. The bank has also returned numerous cheques for the same reason or have been postdated.

Normally during the year there are an average of 2 per month but during April there have been 15. This not only causes me problems with accounting but also the amount of time I must spend following each cheque up in contacting the issuer and either getting the cheque correctly amended or replaced. So, if you do use a cheque, can you please ensure that it is correctly completed.

It would also help if you would kindly consider alternative ways of paying which are by BACS or SUM UP at Update meetings and PAYPAL for membership renewals. Theatre group members can also pay by SUM UP at their monthly coffee morning. This will help reduce the number of cheques to process.

For BACS for the general account (i.e. non-Theatre Group matters)

Sort code 54-30-34 account 38097230




For Theatre Group payments only

Sort code 54-30-34 account 38097249

I thank you in advance for your understanding and co-operation in this matter.

Paul Bradbury (Treasurer) Saltburn District u3a

2025-26 COMMITTEE

 <p>TRICIA SALT CHAIR</p>	<p>I joined SDu3a when I retired in 2010. I served on the committee for 3 years and was Chair from 2014-16. I have belonged to about 12 groups over the past 15 years. I am also currently a member of the Newsletter team.</p>
 <p>LORNA SMITH VICE CHAIR</p>	
 <p>PAUL BRADBURY TREASURER</p>	<p>I relocated to Brotton in 2022 with my wife and two dogs after retiring from a career in Shipping and Logistics. I have passion for water colour painting, travelling and WW2 history and quickly joined SDu3a and several groups, the latest being a writers group where I achieved a lifelong wish to publish a book. I put myself forward as Treasurer at the 2023 AGM and have worked hard to improve the finances and keep costs down.</p>
 <p>FIONA HAMPTON SECRETARY</p>	<p>I joined both Guisborough and Saltburn U3A's in 2016. I live near Guisborough but stay with Saltburn for the Russian Language group. I studied Russian at O Level and want to keep my brain ticking over in retirement. I volunteered for the Committee as I am determined that SDu3a should have sufficient officers to continue and since I am used to minuting meetings, I feel I can be of some help.</p>
 <p>DIANE GOLDBY GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR</p>	<p>On moving back to the area in July 2021, I retired from work, and I joined SDu3a and became a member of the Crafts Anon and Theatre Groups. I joined the committee in October 2022 as minutes secretary, then in May 2024, after 19 months as secretary I took on the role of Groups Coordinator. Joining SDu3a has helped me settle back into the community and has certainly expanded my friendship circle.</p>

2025-26 COMMITTEE (Cont'd)



GAYE BATIZ
MEMBERSHIP/
BEACON /
WEBMASTER

I joined SDu3a in February 2020 to make new friends and follow interests. After lockdown, I became group leader for Birdwatching and Canasta groups and in March 2021 I applied to join the committee. After 3 years as Chair and 1 as Secretary, I'm still around. I have made some great friends, and I am looking forward to a few more years on the committee working with a great team of volunteers.



HOWARD LEAKE
MEMBERSHIP/
COMMUNICATIONS

After retiring, my wife suggested I join her as a member of SDu3a. I soon found myself on the committee, mainly in the role of communications officer. As well as helping with the production of our quarterly newsletter I am group leader for Backgammon, Mexican Train and the International Foodies. The U3A is a great community group organisation so I am happy to continue as a group leader and committee member.



MARGO
DAVIDSON-WOOD
COMMITTEE

I joined SDu3a when I moved back to Saltburn a couple of years ago having heard a lot about it from my sister-in-law Daphne, a former Groups Coordinator. Almost immediately I took on the role of Administrative Secretary and started the 'Italian Conversation Group' which I thoroughly enjoy. For the last year I was proud to be Chair and am truly grateful to the Committee for all their support. Being a member of the u3a really has helped me to settle back into the Northeast and I thoroughly recommend joining.



KEN BLADEN
IT OFFICER

Membership Update

First of all, thank you everyone for attending our AGM on 2nd May; we need your support to continue to run Saltburn District u3a so your attendance was appreciated. Following our post AGM meeting, I have agreed – to take on the Membership Secretary role along with looking after the Website, Beacon and Facebook. It sounds a lot but once the set-up is done, it takes care of itself.

I want to thank you all for renewing your membership within the 4-week grace period. The majority of renewals have been processed, and emails have been sent to those who have not renewed. If you have any questions regarding Membership, Website, Beacon or Facebook, please do not hesitate to contact me using the contact tabs on our website.

Gaye Batiz - Membership/WBF

50/50 Prize Draw

Apr2025 – 135 tickets sold – Prize Money £67.50			
FIRST	#1705	£32.00	Oxlee
SECOND	#1417	£16.00	Maxwell
THIRD	#1422	£6.50	Dunston
FOURTH	#1716	£6.50	Raine
FIFTH	#1286	£6.50	Barnett

May2025 – 78 Tickets Sold – Prize Money £39.00			
FIRST	#1918	£16.00	Bradbury
SECOND	#1916	£8.00	Bradbury
THIRD	#2213	£5.00	Grimwood
FOURTH	#1904	£5.00	Kettlewell
FIFTH	#1913	£5.00	Raine

Jun2025 – 91 Tickets Sold – Prize Money £45.50			
FIRST	#2249	19.00	Hogarth
SECOND	#1992	£11.50	Lewis
THIRD	#2412	£5.00	Sheehan
FOURTH	#2242	£5.00	Tyson
FIFTH	#2422	£5.00	Grimwood

50/50 Raffle Fund available to Group Leaders

The 50/50 prize draw fund is now at £600. If you are a group leader and need any equipment for your group, please get in touch with Paul Bradbury (Treasurer). Half of the funds raised by the 50/50 raffle prize draw go to the purchase of group equipment.

The second prize winner in June was a new member who had just joined Saltburn u3a at the Update meeting. So that just proves, you must be in it to win it!

P B - Treasurer

Art Group

We're a small group of amateur artists who enjoy striving to create a masterpiece in between coffee and chat. We range from beginners to those skilled in pencil, charcoal, watercolor, and acrylic. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of the month, 10 am to 12 noon, at Redcar Girl Guide Hall. New members are welcome; a taster session is free, and the regular fee is £1.50. For more information, visit the Saltburn u3a website under "Art Group" or text Malcolm at 07934 405 523.

Below are samples of our work, including watercolour illustrations of Grebes on Hemlington Lake and a Tulip painting.



Watercolour Illustrations of Grebes



Watercolour Illustration of Tulips



Linda's pencil drawing of "Spit"



Malcolm's 10 minute sketch (followed by watercolour) of "Molly the Unicorn"

Group Leaders and Key Workers Gather at SCAA

Saltburn's dedicated Group Leaders and Key Workers were recently treated to a delightful luncheon, held on Friday, May 23rd, at Saltburn Community Arts Association (SCAA). We settled at white tablecloths adorned with flower posies, pen pots, sweetie dishes and sheets of Dingbats.

Diane Goldby (Groups' Co-ordinator) brought us up to speed on the latest developments concerning Beacon training. Practical matters like room booking procedures were also clarified, as was an outline of what we could expect for the day. Tea, coffee and biscuits were served. The ice-breaker was to guess little known facts about each other – who for instance could speak a foreign language fluently? This certainly got everyone moving and chatting before we settled back for a brief report on u3a groups news.

Once the official business was concluded, the atmosphere shifted to one of anticipation as the 'fun' truly began. The first order of entertainment was a lively game of musical bingo. Participants were challenged to identify singers or groups as snippets of songs were played, eagerly crossing off names on their cards. The energy was palpable as attendees hummed along and cheered for their fellow players.

Following the spirited musical interlude, it was time to indulge in a truly magnificent buffet lunch. The spread was a feast for the eyes and the palate, offering a diverse selection of delicious dishes to satisfy every taste. This period provided a wonderful opportunity for attendees to relax, mingle, and connect with peers they might not often see.

The final activity invited participants to become local detectives, examining photographs of various objects taken from around Saltburn and then putting their knowledge of the area to the test by trying to identify the precise location where each picture was snapped.

The laughter, the shared meals, and the engaging activities all contributed to a memorable experience. A heartfelt thanks is extended to all the individuals who dedicated their time and effort to organising this wonderful event and to those who helped out on the day. Their hard work ensured that Saltburn's Group Leaders and Key Workers received the appreciation they so richly deserve, making the luncheon a resounding success.

Sarah



Ancient Texts and Writers

In May the Writing for Pleasure (WFP) Group enjoyed a trip to Newcastle City Library (NCL), where they came face to face with exquisitely detailed drawings of Conch Shells and books dating from the 17th Century.

The library tour was kindly arranged by Cecilia Coulson, Committee Member of Northumbria u3a and Leader of Northumbria Writers group, with whom WFP meets monthly.

It was great to meet each other in person and spend time together perusing the library's selected collections of works from local writers and artists, including George Gibsone's exquisite conch drawings, Thomas and John Bewick's books, and two of the many wooden printer blocks that form part of the famous Newcastle Collection available at NCL.

Our trust was well placed in Cecilia who led us through cobbled ginnels to a watering hole for refreshments. It was a lovely day and we can highly recommend the return taxi journey to Newcastle.

If you are keen to open the archives of NCL please contact the library first with your requests.

Sarah Telfer

SINGING FOR PLEASURE CONCERT

After a successful Christmas concert, the Women's Fellowship in Saltburn asked the group back to one of their meetings, to entertain them with a selection of songs. About 20 of our group gathered at the Methodist Church on 5th June to give a much appreciated performance of various songs, including several from well-known musicals. Our reward was a tasty buffet with home-made cakes and a welcome cup of tea.



If you would like to join the Singing for Pleasure group, we meet every Monday for an hour (1.30-2.30pm) at the Echo Centre. We are a friendly group where everyone is welcome, whether or not you think you can sing. You can!

Tricia

Gardening Group

In the wildlife garden where the garden group meets we now enjoy the luxury of our own rainwater collection system in its own housing. This was designed and built by one of our much-missed members, Hugh Melvin. Our garden is seasonal, but Hugh liked a winter project and decided that building our own water supply would be beneficial, which it is, especially in the recent dry spell. This was his winter project where he applied his engineering skills in true u3a fashion.

We decided it should be dedicated to Hugh so with the agreement of Sally, his wife, and the approval of the allotment society committee a plaque was purchased by the group (so no cost to u3a) and Dave, one of our members, fixed it to the water system.

We invited Sally to see it and she came with their two daughters one recent sunny Tuesday morning. They had a tour of the site, and we all enjoyed alcohol free fizz, grapes and the traditional biscuit treat that most groups enjoy.

We are a small but friendly group; a new member joined in May, but we would love more to share the planting, weeding and recently the watering as well as expanding what we can discuss over the lengthy refreshments break as we enjoy the nature outside. We are a mixed gender group, so all are welcome.

Why not come along to meet us on a dry Tuesday morning between 10 and 12 or make contact through the group's website. The plot is looking really lovely just now.

Denice Partington



Knitting Memories

I was already taking part in the 'knitting every day in March' challenge for Alzheimer's Research UK when Margaret Holmes said that knitted dresses were needed for babies in Uganda. It seemed like the perfect 'two birds with one stone' scenario and others in our u3a soon got involved - the pile of dresses is growing!



Mention of these dresses sparked a memory from Sally Melvin that several years ago SDu3a had made lots of pillow case dresses for Africa with Margaret Holmes (here she is again) being tasked with taking the dresses to Pat and Steve in Stape, high up on the moors from whence they would be taken to an island in the middle of Lake Victoria.

On the day of the delivery there was snow but the roads seemed clear. As Margaret's journey progressed the snow increased but the roads were driveable; however soon partially melted snow on north facing slopes had frozen and conditions became glacial. The climb up from Wheeldale Beck is steep and has a double bend. At this point Margaret's car lost traction leaving Margaret with three choices - back down the hill and perhaps end up in the beck, wait to see if the sun would get up high enough to melt the ice or do a full throttle start. Margaret went for the latter option and after some screeching got going again. A shaken Margaret wondered if the children in Africa would ever know about her adventure. Once the dresses were delivered, Margaret chose the long (and safer) way home via Pickering.

The collection point this time is in the London area - Royal Mail should take the strain this time!

Thanks to all who have been knitting!

Karin

Handicraft and Produce Show

The Saltburn, Marske and New Marske Parish Council Show will be held at the MSRP grounds in Marske (Football, Bowls, Band and park areas) on 14th September 2025. There will be classes for produce, crafts and photography as you can see by the notice below.

There are no further details available at the moment but the Council are planning to have other activities taking place with the show and we hope that some of our u3a groups may like to participate. We'll let you know more when information becomes available.



Saltburn Marske and New Marske
**HANDICRAFT AND
 PRODUCE SHOW**
SUNDAY 14th SEPTEMBER
MARSKE FOOTBALL CLUB
OPEN FOR ENTRIES 9-11AM OPEN TO THE PUBLIC 12.30PM

Sponsored by Saltburn, Marske and New Marske Parish Council
 and Marske Sports and Recreation Partnership

Saltburn, Marske and New Marske Parish Council is once again holding the traditional, local show supported by MSRP. Come and join in, whether you want to enter exhibits or just look at other people's efforts. Growing, making, baking and crafting – sections for everyone including children

Further Information, schedules and application forms available from the Parish Office
 Tel 01287 623477
 Email office@smnmpc.co.uk
www.smnmpc.co.uk



! Save the Date !

An unforgettable afternoon of mystery and intrigue awaits...

Join us for a Murder Mystery Afternoon

Written and performed by our own talented u3a members!

Date: Sunday, 7th September 2025

Time: 1:00 – 3:30 pm

Venue: Saltburn Community Hall

Tickets: £5: to include a delicious selection of sweet and savoury treats - and yes, sandwiches too!

[By popular request, we've added sandwiches and more savoury options this time.]

Tickets will be on sale at the July & August Update meetings and Theatre Group sessions.

Expect secrets, suspense, and plenty of fun — you won't want to miss it.

More details coming soon!

