

Ancient Texts and Writers



In May the Writing for Pleasure (WFP) group of Saltburn u3a, along with members of the NRCW (Northumbria Region Creative Writers) from Whickham, Newcastle and Alnwick u3as 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, a Committee Member of Northumbria Region u3a and Leader of NRCW group, with whom WFP meets monthly via Zoom.

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 Gibson'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.

We were also taken into the 'stacks' where many of the books are stored and also the 'strong room' where the most valuable documents and drawings are stowed in cool conditions.

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