

Newsletter

Hartlepool & District u3a
Issue 85, June 2024



Comments from the Chair

Some of you might not be aware that our u3a started in 2011 and we are coming up to our 13th AGM which will take place on June 7th starting at 2pm. After the business of the day has been completed, we will hold a fun quiz and refreshments. This will be an opportunity for members to socialise and will be particularly useful for newer members to get to know a few more of us. Thanks to our technical experts we now have a microphone that will make it easier for everyone to hear what is going on. This might prove to be a mixed blessing for those of you who don't find AGMs overly exciting! Anyway, fingers crossed that the technology doesn't let us down.

All the papers for the AGM have been sent out so you have had the opportunity to read through them and see what we have achieved over the past year and how your money is being spent. There is a form included if you would like to join us on the committee, although you can join us at any time throughout the year as a co-opted member. Please give this thoughtful consideration as committee members can only serve for a specific period before they must stand down. Please have a chat with me, or any committee member, if you would like to find out more.

We now have completed our speaker programme for the rest of the year. Our next guest speaker will be James Ruddock from Tees River Rescue so that is something to look forward to.

I look forward to seeing you at our AGM.

Meanwhile

Take care,

Roger

Gardening Group @ RHS Spring Flower Show, Harrogate and Future Events

Liz Milburn



April's garden group visit was to the RHS Spring flower show at Harrogate, we went on an organised coach trip, and the traditional group photo is shown above. We also intend to go to the RHS Autumn flower show, which is at Newby Hall on Sunday 15th September. We are going by coach again and the price for both the coach and admission will be about £40. We are booking the seats very soon so if you haven't already put your name down, let us know now if you want to go. You don't need to be a member of the garden group to go on any of our trips.

Our May trip will be on the Bank Holiday Monday May 27th to Thornton Hall gardens near Darlington, we are going by minibus and all the seats are now taken. Anyone else who wants to go, is of course welcome to make their own way there, the cost of admission to Thornton Hall is £10 per person, no concessions.

We would like to be able to arrange minibuses for all garden visits, so that we can venture further afield, but this does mean we need enough people wanting to go to fill an 8-seater or a 16-seater minibus.

On Sunday 23rd June we are intending to go to the open gardens at Old Quarrington, near Bowburn under the National Gardens scheme. We went last year, the 3 very distinct gardens were lovely, there were plants for sale and refreshments available. Only a few people have signed up to this trip so far and we need several more to even fill an 8-seater minibus let alone a 16-seater. Again let us know soon so we can get things organised.

July's visit has yet to be arranged, we have a choice of 2 open gardens under the National Gardens Scheme, on Saturday 6th July, there are the Houghton Le Skerne Gardens, near Darlington which has a range of secluded gardens and there are teas available at the church

hall, also there are the gardens of Carmel Road South, Darlington on Sunday July 14th. We are still waiting for anyone to express an interest in attending either of these events, please let us know which event you would prefer. We can always arrange another trip if you can't make weekend ones.

Helen and I are away for over half of August and a lot of you may be on holiday too so we will see nearer the time if people want us to arrange anything for August. We are still waiting to see if the visit to Dave Stubbs' allotment can still go ahead. September's visit is to the RHS Autumn show at Newby Hall as mentioned above.

We have had several suggestions for future garden visits, such as the Botanic gardens at Durham or Paddock Farm Nursery and water gardens near Darlington, all suggestions are welcome, but we do need bums on seats to make these visits actually happen. Come on you Hartlepool u3a members, help us out!

Down Memory Lane: Our u3a Stand on Heritage Day at the Borough Hall 2017



Notice Board

Natural History Group Meetings 2024

- **June**, Thursday 4th at 1.30 Spion Cop cemetery. Meet at the gates. See how many orchids we can see this year.
- **July**, Thursday 4th at 1.30 The Batts, Dalton Piercy. This is a new venue. Details about parking and where it is will follow. There are some beautiful meadows here.
- **August**, Thursday 2nd at 1.30 Cowpen Bewley. Meet in the car park for the Butterfly Count.
- **September**, Thursday 5th at 1.30 Hardwick Hall Country Park. Meet near the cafe. Please note that there is a car parking fee.
- **October**, Thursday 3rd at 1.30 Wynyard Woodland Park. Meet outside of the cafe.
- **November**, Thursday 7th at 1.30 the North Gare. Meet in the car park.
- **December**, no meeting

Irene Archer

Letter to the Editor

The 11th May was World Fair Trade Day, in case members missed it, I thought the following information might be helpful:

What is Fair Trade and what makes a product Fair Trade?

Well, Fair Trade is a trading partnership that is concerned with the human rights of all those involved with the creation and distribution of a product. This includes people being paid a fair wage, ensuring that the product or the materials for the product are ethically sourced, as well as fighting against issues concerning the economy, gender, inequality, and climate change.

What is Fair Trade?

The concepts that drive Fair Trade Enterprises are focused on ensuring the positive well-being of the planet and those that inhabit it. The business models that Fair Trade promotes are all environmentally sustainable and help at-risk groups. Some examples of their business models include:

- Recycling and upcycling;
- Women-leadership;
- Refugee-focused enterprises;
- And preserving indigenous skills.

The Objectives of Fair Trade

The goal is simple: bring equality back into business. Fair Trade is opposed to the 'greed and destruction' of big corporations, which only seek to extract profits, often at the expense of their workers and the environment.

Fair Trade Enterprises seeks to build sustainable business models that put people and our planet before profits. They are the hopeful alternative to the new business world.

How we can support producers



When shopping help support producers by buying products with the Fairtrade Mark. This not only guarantees that the product contains constituents that have been ethically and sustainably produced but also guarantees a fair price for the producer, not just profits for all those intermediaries (importers, wholesalers etc.) and additionally pays a social premium to grower cooperatives to spend on essentials of their choice.

Martin Green

Poem of the Month

Eiders on the Headland

Low tide on the Headland
Third day of mists
And sea frets
Somewhat eerie feeling
Along the coast
Clamminess in the air
Misty curtain over sea
Opens
To a surreal scene
Of a raft of eiders
Bobbing gracefully
On a still sea
Over one hundred
Vast majority males
Majority have left
Females on nests
Though the odd male
Rise
Our of the water
Puffing out their chests
Displaying
For unattached
Females
Who seem
Suitably unimpressed
Probably a little
Too late
In the season
Ah well . . .

In trying their luck

Roger Say

Word of the Month

Ambidextrous

I was opening a jar of marmalade recently and was struggling to remove the lid. I tried first with my right hand and then successfully with my left. Does that make me Ambidextrous – meaning being able to use both hands with equal ease? Not really. Whilst I can interchange between hands quit easily for many tasks, overall I'm still generally right-handed, although I seem to retain more strength in my left hand. However, being right-handed might not have always been the case. Like many people of my generation I was naturally left-handed but was taught at school to write with my right. So, if there is such a thing as being semi-ambidextrous then that is probably me.

Barry Liddle

Conversation of the Month

Six-year-old Bella and her Granny

BELLA: Where's God Granny?

GRANNY: He's everywhere?

BELLA: Is He in our House?

GRANNY: Yes

BELLA Is He in the Wardrobe?

GRANNY: Yes

BELLA: Is He down the toilet?

GRANNY: Have you any other questions?

True story only name of the child has been changed.

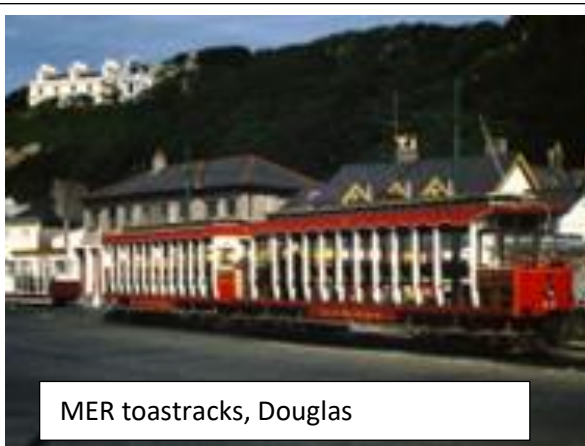
Barry Liddle

Following Jacky Armstrong's article on the Isle of Man in last month's Newsletter, I thought members might like to see these pictures of the IoMs four famous heritage transport systems which together comprise the longest narrow-gauge system in the British Isles.

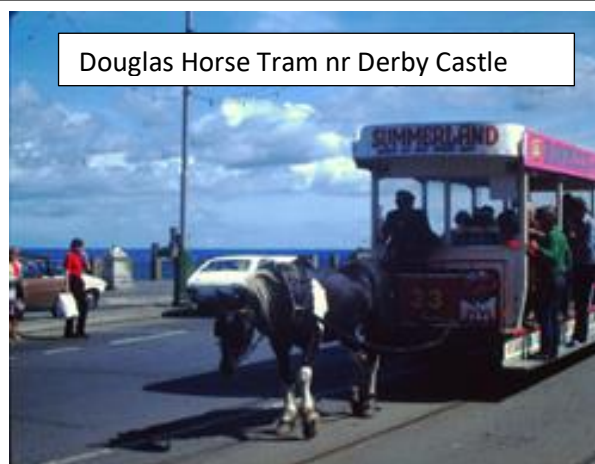
- IoM SteamRailway (Douglas - Port Erin, opened 1873 15.5 miles)
- Douglas Horse Tramway (opened 1876 - 1 mile)
- Manx Electric Railway (Douglas - Ramsey, opened 1893 - 17 miles)
- Snaefell Mountain Railway (Laxey - Summit, opened 1895 5.5 miles)

All use original trams, carriages, locomotives etc (but not original horses). Three run on 3ft narrow gauge track. The exception is the Snaefell Mountain Railway which uses 3ft 6ins track for reasons lost in time, so its five trams are incompatible with those on the MER which it meets at Laxey. All four operate during the summer months.

Martin Green



MER toastracks, Douglas



Douglas Horse Tram nr Derby Castle



Snaefell No5 @ Laxey



IOMSR No4 Loch @ Port Erin

British Stars of Stage and Screen Quiz

Compiled by Barry Liddle

Q1 Who played the role of Maria in the multiple Oscar winning film 'The Sound of Music'?

- a Julie Andrews
- b Audrey Hepburn
- c Jean Simmons

Q2 The actor Hugh Grant starred in which of the following films?

- a Four Christenings and a Marriage
- b Four Marriages and a Death
- c Four Weddings and a Funeral

Q3 Who came to prominence as the hapless Frank Spencer in the sitcom 'Some Mothers Do 'Ave 'Em' before landing the lead role in the 'Phantom of the Opera' in the West End and Broadway?

- a David Essex
- b Michael Ball
- c Michael Crawford

Q4 Sir Brian Rix was well known for producing a sequence of long-running farces on the London stage. In these productions he was well known for losing his:

- a Hat
- b Shirt
- c Trousers

Q5 The National Theatre Company opened in 1963. Who founded it and became the first Artistic Director?

- a Sir John Gielgud
- b Sir Laurence Olivier
- c Sir Ralf Richardson

Q6 Who was the captain figure and star of the classic 1953 British War film – The Cruel Sea?

- a Noel Coward
- b Jack Hawkins
- c Donald Sinden

Q7 Which actress starred in the 1945 British romantic film 'Brief Encounter' directed by David Lean and also starring Trevor Howard?

- a Celia Johnson
- b Vivien Leigh
- c Margaret Lockwood

Q8 Which comedian was a major film star in communist Albania?

- a Benny Hill
- b Tommy Trinder
- c Norman Wisdom

Q9 In the cult horror film *The Wicker Man*, a police sergeant is sacrificed on a Scottish island at the end of the film. Which well-known TV and cinema actor played the sergeant?

- a Richard Harris
- b Christopher Lee
- c Edward Woodward

Q10 I was born in Leeds and first came to prominence in the satirical review 'Beyond the Fringe' but I became better known as a playwright, author and screenwriter. Who am I?

- a Alan Bennett
- b Jonathon Miller
- c Michael Palin

Q11 In the classic film *Zulu*, which actor played the role of 'Officer Commanding' at Rorke's Drift and also behind the scenes, was the film's producer?

- a Sean Connery
- b Stanley Baker
- c Michael Caine

Q12 I was a member of a famous double act on stage and screen and was born in Ulverston, Lancashire. Who am I?

- a Eddie Large
- b Stan Laurel
- c Ernie Wise

Q13 Who played the role of Eric Liddell, the famous Scottish runner who ran for God at the 1924 Olympics in the Oscar winning film 'Chariots of Fire'?

- a Ian Charleson
- b Ben Cross
- c Ian Holm

Q14 In the early days of *Coronation Street*, which actress played the role of Ena Sharples?

- a Jean Alexander
- b Violet Carson
- c Doris Speed

Q15 Which famous Hollywood star was born into an impoverished Bristol family and given the name Archibald Leach in 1904?

- a Charlie Chaplin
- b Cary Grant
- c David Niven

Q16 I am a British dramatist, lyricist and composer and my best-known works are Educating Rita, Shirley Valentine and Blood Brothers. Who am I?

- a David Hare
- b Cameron Mackintosh
- c William (Willy) Russell

Q17 Which British actor is best remembered for his roles in 'The 39 Steps' and 'Goodbye Mr Chips'?

- a Robert Donat
- b Kenneth More
- c Robert Powell

Q18 In the 1978 TV spy drama 'Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy', which actor played the role of the soviet 'mole'- Bill Haydon?

- a Ian Bannen
- b Bernard Hepton
- c Ian Richardson

Q19 Who played James Bond in the film 'Diamonds are Forever'?

- a Sean Connery
- b George Lazenby
- c Roger Moore

Q20 I was a British actress and television presenter best known for playing the role of Meg Mortimer in the long-running soap opera 'Crossroads'. Who am I?

- a Julie Goodyear
- b Noele Gordon
- c Julia Goulding

Answers on Page 10

Directory

List of Committee Members for 2024

Chair, Speaker Finder & Web Admin.

Roger Say

Vice Chair–

Vacant

President & Minutes Secretary –

Linda Sargent

Business Secretary –

Wendy Borthwick

Treasurer –

Cliff Cordiner

Membership Secretary –

Andrea Reid

Group Co-ordinator & Beacon Admin.

Pauline Williamson

Committee – Keith Alder; Irene Archer

Interest Group Leaders

Archaeology/History Group: Chris McLoughlin.

Art Appreciation: Co-Leaders: Irene Archer, Andrea Reid.

Board Games: Irene Williams.

Bridge: Phil Jefferies.

Chess Group: Roger Say.

Coffee & Chat Jacky Armstrong

Creative Writing Group: Roger Say.

Family History: Co- Leaders: Jacky Armstrong, Pat Rutter.

Film Group: Contact Phil Jefferies.

Fun with Fabrics: Ann Say

Gardens and Gardening: Co-Leaders: Liz Milbourn and Helen Eustace

Lawn Bowls: Ray Elliston.

Music: Steve Cole

Natural History Group: Co- Leaders: Irene Archer, Margaret Andrews and Beryl Turnbull.

Photography for Fun Group: Ray Elliston.

Quiz Team: John Campbell.

Reading Group: Andrea Reid

Shibashi Exercise Group: Marjorie Reynolds.

Tuesday Book Club: Mary Waldmeyer

'View to Vue': Roger Say.

Walking Group: Keith Alder

Roles of Non- Committee Members

Newsletter Editor-

Barry Liddle

Quiz Answers

Q1 a Julie Andrews; Q2 c Four Weddings and a Funeral; Q3 c Michael Crawford; Q4 c Trousers;
Q5 b Sir Laurence Oliver; Q6 b Jack Hawkins; Q7 a Celia Johnson; Q8 c Norman Wisdom;
Q9 c Edward Woodward; Q10 a Alan Bennett; Q11 b Stanley Baker; Q12 b Stan Laurel;
Q13 a Ian Charleson; Q14 b Violet Carson; Q15 b Cary Grant; Q16 c William (Willy) Russell;
Q17 a Robert Donat; Q18 c Ian Richardson; Q19 a Sean Connery; Q20b Noele Gordon.