



Newsletter



Hartlepool & District u3a
Issue 92, January 2025

Happy New Year!



Comments from the Chair

And so, 2024 is drawing to an end and we are about to herald in a brand new year. This is the time when some of us make new year resolutions that are rarely kept and soon forgotten. However, although I usually steer well clear of these resolutions I can promise you all one thing: 2025 is going to be a bumper year for our u3a. We have some great speakers already lined up for our general meetings including Keith Robson who saved the day for us last year when the booked speaker let us down at the very last moment. He will be our first guest speaker of 2025 followed by Frances Wilson in February. Both live locally so there should not be any issues if the weather turns nasty.

Thank you to everyone who has suggested speakers for us and we are now virtually fully booked for next year. We will also be holding social events throughout the year when we will be providing our own entertainment and refreshments.

Our mainstay, of course, remains our interest groups which will continue to meet on a regular basis. Don't forget that we encourage new groups to start so if you have any ideas that you think will be of interest, please let us know. Just speak to any committee member who will be glad to be of assistance. Speaking of committee members, we will need more of you to step forward in the coming year. It is not an onerous job and you will be warmly welcomed. Don't be shy!

Well, that is it then. Job done for me for this year and it only leaves me to wish each one of you a Happy New Year and I look forward to seeing you all in 2025.

Meanwhile

Take care

Roger

Notice Board

Afternoon Tea

On Tuesday 25th February, I have booked Afternoon Tea at Hardwicke Hall Manor Hotel, Blackhall. The price for the best Afternoon Tea in the area is £18, which includes a tip. If you fancy a glass of Prosecco with your food, it is an extra £2.

I am asking for the £18 at the time of booking, please.

I will be at the January u3a meeting if you would like to go. I will also be at Coffee and Chat, the Quiz and the History Group in January.

I will confirm the time when I see you! You must let me know if you have any food allergies.

Jacky Armstrong

Word of the Month

My word of the month is CELEBRATE, which means to hold festivities to mark a happy event or anniversary. So, lets celebrate the New Year.

Barry Liddle

Coffee and Chat Group

The next Coffee and Chat will be held at The Golden Lion (next to Aldi) on Monday 6th January at 10.30.

Everyone is welcome.

Jacky Armstrong

Foreign Word of the Month

My foreign word of the month is ARRIVEDERCI, which is Italian for goodbye. So arrivederci 2024, hello 2025!

Barry Liddle

Quiz Group

The next Quiz will be held in the Community Room of the Hub in York Road on Tuesday 21st January at 2 pm. Come and join a team and blow away the Christmas cobwebs.

Jacky Armstrong

Down Memory Lane
Hartlepool U3A Event in 2014 to Commemorate WW1



All Photographs © Barry Liddle

Creative Writing

Travelling More in Hope Than Expectation

It is better to travel hopefully than arrive is a phrase that has been attributed to Robert Louis Stevenson, and it is one of the maxims I have lived by for the best part of my life. I am one of those people who do not have a sense of direction, although that is not quite true in my case. I do have some sense of direction, but it is usually, nay invariably, sends me the wrong way. When I think I should turn left I should have turned right, and if I change my mind and turn right, I should have turned left. However, please do not let me confuse me or you won't know if you're coming or going.

When arriving at point B from point A is your sole concern you are missing out on the chance of a wondrous experience. On the other hand, if your focus is on the enjoyment of the actual journey rather than the destination life becomes more pleasurable. I remember a particular occasion when I visited a large store and erroneously exited from a different door than the one I came in. I stepped out into a completely new scenario than the one I expected. Was I startled or confused? Certainly not. A whole new world opened up before my eyes. Some people who have the misfortune to have a good sense of direction would have been perplexed, panicked and rushed back inside the store to correct their mistake whereas I, who is used to being in the wrong place, took it all in my stride, and looked upon the experience as one to be enjoyed. A chance for a new adventure.

Can I make the point that you need to choose your mode of travel carefully if you want to travel hopefully. I can recommend travelling by foot, bicycle or motorised transport but avoid planes or ships where your chances of travelling hopefully will be severely diminished. Join the band of happy wanderers who journey through life never 100% certain in which direction they are travelling but tend to arrive there in the end.

Happy travelling

Roger Say

The New Year Quiz

Compiled by Barry Liddle

**As we approach the first day of the New Year, our quiz focuses on 'Famous Firsts'.
Answers on page 8.**

Q1 Who was the first President of the United States?

- a John Adams
- b Thomas Jefferson
- c George Washington

Q2 Who were the first climbers 'confirmed' as reaching the summit of Mount Everest?

- a Edmund Hillary & Tenzing Norgay
- b George Mallory & Tenzing Norgay
- c Edward Whymper & John Muir

Q3 Who first discovered Penicillin?

- a Alexander Fleming
- b Alfred Nobel
- c Louis Pasteur

Q4 The first international football match took place on 30th November 1872. Which two teams contested the match?

- a England v France
- b England v Wales
- c Scotland v England

Q5 What was the name of the first 'talkie' feature film?

- a King Kong
- b The Blue Angel
- c The Jazz Singer

Q6 Who led the first polar party to reach the South Pole on December 14th, 1911?

- a Roald Amundsen
- b Fridtjof Nansen
- c Robert Falcon Scott

Q7 At the Mexico Olympics in 1968, this long jumper broke the World and Olympic Record by a huge margin. In one jump he became the first person to jump over 29 feet and in so doing, was also the first person to jump over 28 feet. Who Was he?

- a Bob Beamon

- b Klaus Beer
- c Ralf Boston

Q8 Hartlepool's Middleton Grange shopping centre was officially opened on 27 May 1970 by a member of the Royal Family. Who was it?

- a Princess Anne
- b Queen Elizabeth
- c Prince Charles

Q9 Who was the first British artist to win the Eurovision Song Contest?

- a Cliff Richard
- b Sandy Shaw
- c Lulu

Q10 What was the name of the first jet airliner?

- a Boeing 707
- b Douglas Dc-6
- c The de Havilland DH 106 Comet

Q11 Who was the first surgeon to perform a human-to-human heart transplant?

- a Christiaan Barnard
- b Charles R Drew
- c Victor Chang

Q12 Who was the first male footballer to play 100 official international matches for England?

- a Bobby Charlton
- b Stanley Mathews
- c Billy Wright

Q13 Who was the British Monarch at the beginning of World War 1?

- a Edward VII
- b George V
- c George VI

Q14 Who was credited with being the first person to introduce tobacco and potatoes to Britain?

- a Sir Francis Drake

- b John Hawkings
- c Sir Walter Raleigh

Q15 According to legend, a schoolboy picked up the ball and ran with it during a school Football match at Rugby School, thus creating the game of Rugby. What was the schoolboy's name?

- a William Web Ellis
- b Harry Flashman
- c Dickie Jeeps

Q16 Who was the first person to discover Gravity?

- Nicolaus Copernicus
- Galileo Galilei
- Sir Isaac Newton

Q17 Who was the first person to sail non-stop around the world single handed, winning the Sunday Times Golden Globe Race in 1968/69?

- a Sir Francis Chichester
- b Sir Robin Knox-Johnston
- c David Smith

Q18 Who was the first person to swim the English Channel?

- Captain Matthew Webb
- Benoit Lecomte
- Gertrude Ederle

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**Happy New Year to Every Member of
Hartlepool & District U3A**

Directory

List of Committee Members for 2024/25

Chair, Speaker Finder & Web Admin.

Roger Say

Vice Chair–

Vacant

Business Secretary –

Wendy Borthwick

Treasurer –

Cliff Cordiner

Membership Secretary –

Andrea Reid

Group Co-ordinator & Beacon Admin.

Pauline Williamson

Minutes Secretary

Vacant

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.

Backgammon Group Ann Gardiner

Bridge: Phil Jefferies.

Chess Group: Roger Say.

Coffee & Chat Jacky Armstrong

Concert Group: Pauline Williamson

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: Vacant

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

The New Year Quiz-Answers

Q1 c George Washington; Q2 a Edmund Hillary & Tenzing Norgay; Q3 a Alexander Fleming; Q4 c Scotland v England ; Q5 c The Jazz Singer; Q6 a Roald Amundsen; Q7 a Bob Beamon; Q8 a Princess Anne; Q9 b Sandy Shaw; Q10 c The de Havilland DH 106 Comet; Q11 a Christiaan Barnard; Q12 c Billy Wright; Q13 b George V; Q14 c Sir Walter Raleigh; Q15 a William Web Ellis; Q16 Sir Isaac Newton; Q17 b Sir Robin Knox-Johnston; Q18 Captain Matthew Webb.

Copy Wanted for This Newsletter

Articles, Short Stories, Interesting Photographs (with captions), Limericks & Poems.

Items for the Newsletter's 'Notice Board' are also welcomed.

All contributions to the next Newsletter are most welcome.

Copy deadline for the next issue is 20 January 2025.

Barry Liddle, Newsletter Editor