

Newsletter

Hartlepool & District u3a
Issue 93, February 2025



Comments from the Chair

One of the pleasures of being the chair of our u3a (and there are many!) is that I get to write my 'Comment' every month. When the deadline for the next issue draws alarmingly close, I sit in front of my laptop and put on my thinking cap. I often draw inspiration by rereading the previous issue. Usually, each issue is packed with a variety of interesting, informative and amusing stories, often by a small pool of contributors.

Occasionally we get an article from a new contributor which always gives extra pleasure. Although very few people have a book inside of them (and for those of us who do have one, it may

well be best to keep it hidden there) most of us can produce an article that will be of interest to our members. Why not take the opportunity to see your name in print by sending a contribution to Barry. He would be delighted and so would our readers!

We had a very good turnout for last month's meeting when we were all entertained by Keith Robson who informed us about the life of Walt Disney. The only complaint I received was that it was very cold in the hall. No names, but someone forgot to press the reset buttons for the heaters, so I will make sure it doesn't happen again. Although the kitchen was unavailable because of ongoing refurbishments our redoubtable refreshment volunteers managed to provide us with hot drinks for which we were very grateful.

This month's speaker will be the ever-popular local historian, Frances Wilson, who will be telling us all about the history of the cinema in Hartlepool. I look forward to seeing you there,

Meanwhile,

Stay safe and warm

Roger

Notice Board

Invitation to an Afternoon Tea at Hardwicke Hall Manor Hotel

For those of you who were not able to get to the meeting on Friday, 4th January, here is some information about an Afternoon Tea and the possibility of lunch dates.

I have booked Hardwicke Hall Manor Hotel at Blackhall for Tuesday 25th February. The afternoon tea will be served at 2.30 so please be in your seats and ready to eat! The afternoon tea is £18, and £20 if you would like Prosecco. This includes a tip. (If you can't manage all the food, take a box with you to bring some home.) The food is all freshly prepared and could consist of finger sandwiches, different scones with jam and cream, small cakes and a small trifle and maybe more, with endless cups of tea.

Hardwicke Hall are, from the 15th of January, recommencing Grandma's Carvery on a Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday. The food is all freshly prepared. There will be a self-service carvery with a choice of roasts or homemade pie or burger or fish and up to 6 different vegetables from £8.95. There is a vegetarian option. A carvery baguette is available from £9.95 or Soup £4.95 and sandwiches from £5.95.

If there is demand, I will book an occasional table for us. You can make your choice and pay for it when you get there. I envisage our first lunch will be before Easter in April.

I am still taking names for the Afternoon Tea. Money at the time of booking please. Incidentally, if some of you can't get there because of transport difficulties and can't get a lift, a 23 taxi is £16 each way. Maybe you could share.

Jacky Armstrong



Fly Me to the Moon

Ray Elliston recently took this image of the Moon and a small bright object which he would like to think is the International Space Station but believes is more likely to be Venus. The photo is not as sharp as Ray would like because of the magnification and the lack of a tripod.

Garden Group Programme for the New Year

February

- The first Garden Group visit of the year will be to the Greatham Snowdrop Sunday on the 9th of February. Even if you aren't in the Garden group you may wish to go with family or friends. Last year we had a lovely walk through the snowdrops in the hospital grounds and had exceedingly good refreshments in the Community Centre afterwards. Please be aware that the paths can be uneven for those with mobility issues. Meet 1.30pm outside the Community Centre.

March

- The March meeting will be on Monday 24th March at 12 noon, and we will meet up for a coffee or lunch at the Dutch Garden Centre, Ladysmith St, TS25 1NZ (behind big Tesco's). Their cafe, the Secret Garden Cafe, has got very good reviews.

Events in Development

We are still planning our garden group visits for later in the year. There are several trips with Lees' coaches that look interesting, we intend to go on the Harlow Carr gardens trip on Sunday 1st June and we are also thinking of going on several other of Lees' trips:

- Friday 2nd May, Stokesley Market and Cherryhill Garden Centre
- Friday May 25th May, Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield
- Tuesday 22nd of July, Breezy Knees Garden Centre
- Wednesday 19th September, Northallerton Market and Arcadia Garden Centre.

It will all depend on how much interest there is from garden group members as to whether we go on any of these trips

Last year the trip to the Thornton Hall Gardens near Darlington in May was a great success. They only have a few open days during the year, from the end of May to the middle of July. We may organise a trip again this year, if there is sufficient interest, and at the end of their open days so we can see the later flowering plants in bloom.

Liz Milbourn

Who Am I

Compiled by Barry Liddle

1. I was born in 1919 in County Durham.
2. In 1933 at the tender age of 14, I became a miner.
3. I joined the 'Pitman's Academy art school at the age of 15
4. I became known for my paintings of mining community life in and around Spennymoor.
5. Bowes museum recently held a major exhibition of my work

Who am I? (answer on page 9)

Down Memory Lane



Members of the Archaeology/History Group @ Tees Cottage Pumping Station, March 2018

Poetry Corner

January Days

Cold days

Warm days

Driesch days

Fantastic sunrises

Magical sunsets

Venus reigning supreme

Mars glow red

Jupiter and Saturn

Pass through

Clear skies

Shape-shifting clouds

Zephyr breezes

Biting winds

Waxing moon

Waning moon

Happy days

Sad days

Mundane days

Days come

Days go

All unique

Roger Say

Teesside Industry

Martin Green



Photographs taken from Seal Sands next to Seaton Carew Road



Photographs taken from North Gare Beach and North Gare Car Park

These photographs were taken in the 'dwindling light' of late afternoon in early January, as part of an outing by the 'Photography for Fun Group'. All photographs © Martin Green

The Comedy Quiz

Compiled by Barry Liddle

Q1 In a famous TV sketch who said, "I'm playing all the right notes, but not necessarily in the right order"?

- a Liberace
- b Eric Morecambe
- c Tony Hancock

Q2 Name the two lead characters in the popular TV series 'The Likely Lads'?

- a Phil and Terry
- b Bob and Terry
- c Bob and Tarquin

Q3 Which British comedian was well known for the catchphrase; 'Hello playmates.'

- a Arthur Askey
- b Wilfred Brambell
- c Dick Emery

Q4 Who recorded 'Ernie (The Fastest Milkman in the West)'?

- a Bernard Cribbins
- b Benny Hill
- c Clive Dunn

Q5 Who wrote and performed the famous stage revue 'Beyond the Fringe'?

- a Alan Bennett, Michael Bentine, Peter Cook, and Jonathan Miller.
- b Alan Bennett, John Cleese, Jonathan Miller and Dudley Moore.
- c Alan Bennett, Peter Cook, Jonathan Miller and Dudley Moore.

Q6 The American comedian George Burns, was famous for smoking a

- a Cigar
- b Cigarette
- c Pipe

Q7 In the popular TV sitcom 'Porridge', set in HM Prison Slade, who played the role of Norman Stanley Fletcher?

- a Ronnie Barker
- b Richard Beckinsale
- c Fulton Mackay

Q8 'The Blood Donor' is a classic TV comedy sketch, featuring which comedian?

- a Charlie Drake
- b Tony Hancock
- c Norman Wisdom

Q9 The highly rated comedy series 'Fawlty Towers' is set in which town?

- a Bournemouth
- b Margate
- c Torquay

Q10 In 1967 a classic British slapstick film was released, although not a silent film, it had little in the way of dialogue. It was directed and written by Eric Sykes and starred Sykes, Tommy Cooper and Jimmy Edwards. What was the film called?

- a The Ladder
- b The Plank
- c The Shovel

Q11 In the classic TV series 'Steptoe and Son', what was the name of the horse?

- a Dobin
- b Hercules
- c Napoleon

Q12 I was a comedy star of stage, screen and radio and I was best known for my catchphrase "You lucky people". Who am I?

- a Bob Hope
- b Max Miller
- c Tommy Trinder

Q13 In the TV series 'Are You Being Served,' which actress played Miss Brahms?

- a Wendy Richard
- b June Whitfield
- c Mollie Sugden

Q14 Mrs Mop's catchphrase "Can I do you now sir" was made popular on which BBC radio show?

- a It's That Man Again
- b The Goon Show
- c Round the Horne

Q15 The hit TV comedy series 'Dad's Army' was set in which town?

- a Bexhill-on-Sea
- b Southend -on-Sea
- c Walmington-on-Sea

Q16 'Q' was a surreal and innovative series of television sketch shows co-written and starring

- a Bernard Bresslaw
- b Marty Feldman
- c Spike Milligan

Q17 What was the name of the café in the long running TV show 'Last of the Summer Wine'?

- a Burt's Café
- b Jim's Cafe
- c Sid's Café

Q18 Who had a hit record with 'My Ding-a Ling'?

- a Chuck Berry
- b The Goons
- c Benny Hill

Q19 'The Good Life' sitcom was set in which part of Greater London?

- a Barnes
- b Surbiton
- c Teddington

Q20 Which actress played 'Hyacinth Bucket' (*which she pronounced as Bouquet*) in the BBC sitcom 'Keeping Up Appearances'?

- a Wendy Craig
- b Patricia Routledge
- c June Whitfield

Q21 Charlie Drake was a popular comedian, small of stature with curly red hair and a liking for slapstick. What was his most popular catchphrase?

- "I don't believe it!"
- "Hello, my darlings!"
- "All right my loves?"

Answers on page 9

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

Quiz Answers

Q1 **b Eric Morecambe**; Q2 **b Bob and Terry**; Q3 **a Arthur Askey**; Q4 **b Benny Hill**; Q5 **c Alan Bennett, Peter Cook, Jonathan Miller and Dudley Moore**; Q6 **a Cigar**; Q7 **a Ronnie Barker**; Q8 **b Tony Hancock**; Q9 **c Torquay**; Q10 **b The Plank**; Q11 **b Hercules**; Q12 **c Tommy Trinder**; Q13 **a Wendy Richard**; Q14 **a It's That Man Again**; Q15 **c Walmington-on-Sea**; Q16 **'c Spike Milligan**; Q17 **c Sid's Café**; Q18 **a Chuck Berry**; Q19 **b Surbiton**; Q20 **b Patricia Routledge**; Q21 **"Hello, my darlings!"**

Who Am I? Answer: Norman Cornish

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 February 2025.

Barry Liddle, Newsletter Editor