

# Newsletter

Hartlepool & District u3a

Issue 95, April 2025



## Comments from the Chair

I don't know about you, but I thoroughly enjoyed last month's meeting when we had a social event rather than a guest speaker. These social events are a great chance to chat to old friends and meet new ones. They are particularly useful for new members to find out more about our interest groups and help them to feel part of our u3a community. I would like to thank all the group leaders who took part in telling us about their groups and I hope they managed to attract some new members. We will continue to have these 'fuddles' on a regular basis and the next one is due in June after our AGM. If you have not been to our AGM before don't panic! They rarely last more than 25 - 30 minutes, and then we can get on with the social event.

We have had some excellent guest speakers this year and we are very lucky to have one of our own members, Peter Stoker, who will be entertaining us with a talk entitled 'Me and my vehicles - a journey through 40 years in the vehicle industry with some Hollywood and celebrities mixed in'. We hope you can come along to support one of our own. We are delighted to have a return visit from Denis Fox in May who will be entertaining and informing us with a talk entitled "Beyond the Call of Duty - Heroes and Heroines."

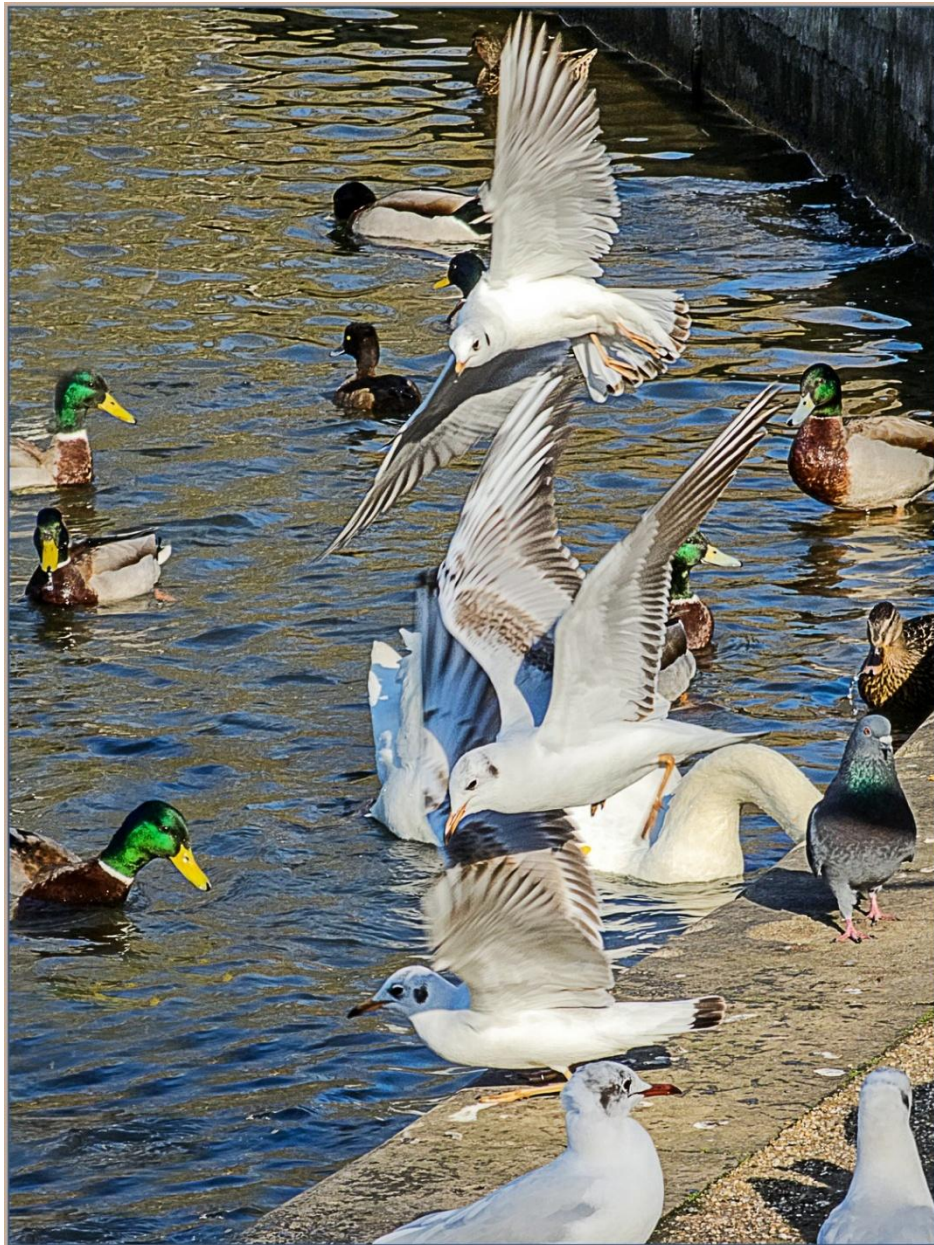
If you have not already read March's Newsletter, I strongly advise you to do so. It has some excellent articles and the photographs are first rate. Please continue to send in your contributions to Barry who we must thank for doing such a great job as Editor. It's a shame that there is not a competition for the best Newsletter of the year for all the u3as because I am sure we would do very well indeed.

Well, the weather is improving at last and so here's looking forward to an excellent spring and summer for our u3a. We are so lucky to have so many interest groups as we are one of the smaller u3as, so we can give ourselves a pat on the back.

Take care

Roger

A Photographic Essay: Early Spring in Ward Jackson Park  
© Barry Hayton



## Discovering Local History at Hartlepool North Cemetery

### SS Chanticleer – ‘Lost in the Seas 1889’

Wendy Borthwick

SS Chanticleer was an Iron Screw Steamer built and launched in Dunbarton in 1853 and subsequently registered for the first time in 1858 in Newcastle-upon-Tyne. The Chanticleer changed owners three times over the following years until 1888 when it was bought by Christopher Furness Shipping of West Hartlepool and managed by Jobson & Co also of West Hartlepool.



My research on the SS Chanticleer was prompted by the discovery of an old badly weathered headstone). The information it contains is not very precise: ‘Captain T Cornforth who was lost in the seas about 24th September 1889 aged 53 years.’

Not a lot of clues, however, we do know that the Chanticleer sailed from Blyth for Solvesborg Sweden on 24th September 1889; the journey taking them across the North Sea to negotiate Skagerrak Fjord then onwards to Kattegat Sea and then the Baltic Sea to the port of Solvesborg. It then disappeared during heavy gales with the crew of fourteen (14) being lost, the precise location a mystery.

Families so attached and reliant upon the sea, experience the grief of disasters and once again on or about 24th September 1889 a Hartlepool family were coming to terms with their loss. The headstone also records the death of Jane Cornforth in June 1897 as follows: ‘Jane, Relict of the above’

This is language that we don’t see today but was quite often used in old obituaries and I have come across it on some of the older remaining headstones. The word relict, means ‘Widow’ and comes from the Latin verb ‘relinquere’ meaning ‘to leave behind.’

This brings us back to the life of the SS Chanticleer. Does a ship have a life? Of course it does, and the Chanticleer most certainly did:

- 1853 (October) arriving from Hamburg it ran down a wherry near St Anthony's-on-Tyne with the loss of life of one crew member from the wherry (*a wherry – is a light ship or boat used to navigate inland waterways.*)
- 1855 - she was requisitioned as cargo transport during the Crimean War.
- 1857 (October) on voyage from St Petersburg to Newcastle collided just off Copenhagen with the steamer ALBERT that was travelling from Dunkirk to St Petersburg; Chanticleer changed course for Copenhagen for repair. The Albert sank with crew and passengers all saved. Phew!!!
- 1864 (April) the Chanticleer detained by the Danish Navy during the blockade of Prussia during the 2nd Schleswig War but was later released.

## A Step Too Far Roger Say (Creative Writing Group)

Some time ago a Chinese philosopher espoused the view that the longest journey starts with a single step. For some reason this has passed through the test of time and is still regarded as pertinent today. It would be impertinent of me to suggest that this view is more patently obvious than profound so I will keep my opinion to myself.

Anyway, I have digressed even before I have started so I will try to get back on track, if you pardon the expression. By the way, if you read on this aside will become clearer. It all started when a good friend of mine suggested that we should start jogging with the aim of running in The Great North Run in the following year. Now, I have always regarded myself as a first-rate couch potato and could see no good reason why I should take any notice of my friend's suggestion. I scoffed at the idea and told him that I did not think I should start up running at what I consider to be an advanced age, and that I was quite happy to spend my dotage spread out on my sofa reading a good book or watching some drivel on the TV. This did not satisfy my friend who pointed out my portly stomach and that I needed to get a grip before I became even more decrepit.

Eventually, I agreed on a compromise. I would start walking to the bus stop rather than driving to the local corner shop. So, with some trepidation I started off one morning on my trek to the bus stop. I had not gone very far when I turned the corner and was struck by an electric scooter which had no business being on the pavement. It rode right over my instep and carried on without a by-your-leave. I limped home and rang my now ex-friend to tell him the next time he had a good idea to keep it to himself or tell it to another mug. He had taken a step too far in involving me in his madcap scheme.

## Visit to Low Barnes Nature Reserve and Visitor Centre Photography for Fun Group

The Photography for Fun Group is always seeking out new places to visit and recently we stumbled upon Low Barnes – an important wildlife site and wetland reserve, bordered by the River Wear. This large site has three lakes and interconnecting streams, a number of mature ponds with extensive reedbeds and a wet pasture – all of which attracts a wide range of wildlife. Similar to our local Saltholme, there are several very well-appointed bird hides located across the reserve. Our photographs reflect the conditions – it was a very dull wintery day.



One of the lakes and the River Wear. © Martin Green



Tree Branch and Tree Stump © Ray Elliston



Tufted Duck © Ray Elliston and Snowdrops © Martin Green

## More Thoughts on the Gun

Jackie Armstrong

You may remember reading one of my previous writings about the gun! As a quick reminder it is a Napoleonic war pistol dated 1791 that belonged to ..... Well, I am still trying to find out. The gun was given to my first husband Peter, by his grandfather Sam Bolton who lived in Gill Street, West Hartlepool. Peter always wanted to research its history 'when he retired'. Unfortunately, Peter died in 1994 and since then, I have taken over the mantel. It is a very slow but fascinating journey.

The gun came down from a distant cousin John Bolton, born in Whitby in 1817. I have mention of 'bijouterie and verlu' in his will of 1892. I thought it logical to think that he was the owner.

John is not on the 1841 census, so this suggests he was out of the country at the time the census was taken. I found that his cousin Maud Marian Bolton was married to Major Gastrell of the Bengal Regiment, so maybe he was in India with them.

John was in the country in 1842, as on the 30th May 1842, in High Holborn London, he married Ann Boldero. He was 25 and Ann was 51. Ann was living in Scarborough and described as an annuitant. They went to live in Scarborough where John was involved with financing some fabulous properties and became a members of the Scarborough set who included Robert Stephenson and the Sitwell family. But that's another story.

Ann's father was William Boldero. There are many Bolderos in India, mostly high-ranking government officials. Is this where John met Ann and is this where the money came from.

After doing extensive research in newspapers, I found evidence of William being a ship owner, advertising passage for trade to Gibraltar.

### **14 September 1810 Public Ledger and Daily Advertiser, London, England**

Has a Licence to Sail without Convoy and will proceed immediately - Direct for Gibraltar.

THE remarkably fast-sailing Brig FOUR BROTHERS A1. William Boldero Commander, Armed with eight 12 and 6-pound corronades. Lying at Union Stairs. Burthen 140 Tons. - For Freight or Passage apply in Exchange Hours on the French and Italian Walks; at the Mediterranean Coffee-house, Cornell; or to

WM. LLEWELLYN, 7 GREAT ST. THOMAS APOSTLE.

*(corronades are canon)*

Then, a breakthrough, a report, sometime later, from The Examiner London, 12 May 1811

The brig Lord Collingwood, Adam Salmon Master 10 guns 3 and 6 pounders, 14 men bound for Lisbon in company with Four Brothers, William Boldero master 8 guns 6 and 12 pounders on 21st October last fell in with the Feret French Privateer of 14 guns and upwards of 100 men, on being halted. The Four Brothers, not being hailed by her struck without firing a gun, not dismayed by his conduct, Capt. Salmon and his little crew (of which 4 were under 12 years of age) commenced a most gallant defence within pistol shot, which lasted an hour and a half, during which Capt. Salmon was wounded in the body by a musket ball, but refused to quit the deck until after the said time was hit with two further musket shots which terminated his life. The mate being so severely wounded as to die 4 days after in the French hospital, and the carpenter and other disabled by their wounds the remainder were compelled to strike and were carried into Morlaix. Through humane interference of Mr McKenzie the four boys were liberated on account of their youth, and arrived to the James cartel. Captain Salmon having left a widow and three small children (the second a cripple) nearly destitute together with an aged father and mother-in-law, whom he had hitherto supported, a Subscription having been commenced for their relief. The boys affidavit of these facts lying for inspection at Messers Sherman and Willcox, Ingram Court, Fenchurch Street.

*\*Morlaix is a port in Brittany, not far from Brest.*

*\*'Strike' means a ship lowers its identity flags and is more or less surrendering.*

So what happened to William and members of his crew. I kept researching and even more success. I found that William Boldero was a prisoner in Longwy a notorious French prison during the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic Wars. He was taken prisoner on 21 October 1810 and in the logbook for Longwy Prison

No 1130 William Boldero Captain Four Brothers  
captured 28 October 1810,  
arrived in Longwy Prison 6 April 1811

He, and other prisoners were marched from Morlaix on the West Coast of France to Longwy Prison on the eastern border with Luxemburg. There is a report saying that prisoners were not fed! Funds from the home country were collected and sent to France to buy food. Where did they stay overnight? Did they walk all the way? When did William leave the prison? I know that he did, as he died and is buried in Scarborough, in 1831.

Here is an exert from an article on Longwy Prison from 'French History and Civilisation'

In 1811 a group of British prisoners of war in Longwy wrote a petition to William Wilberforce, asking him to consider their captivity in France as a distress 'worse than slavery'. In their attempt to convince the abolitionist movement which had recently outlawed the British slave trade the captives claimed that

*'It is true we are not slaves; yet, all things considered, our case is worse. May we entreat you, worthy Sir, to use any means which may appear to you consistent with prudence, to complete our joint wishes ..... and if successful, you will render the greatest service to our countrymen, who are languishing in misery, almost without hope.'*

There is still more research to be done. Greenwich Museum in London has the logbook for Longwy, but unfortunately, they are closed at the moment as they are having a new roof. I will keep searching.

You might have seen the gun when we had the speaker from Bolton Auction Rooms.

Did it belong to William? How did he get it, as it is French made in St Etienne? If he did, how did he get it to England when he was in Prison in Longwy?

As they say about family history 'There are more questions than answers'. If you are not doing your family history, why not give it a go. Either Pat Rutter or I will help you. I can promise you a fascinating journey. It might take over 30 years and ongoing, as this one has done so far, but what fun.

## Notice Board

### Tuesday Book Club

We have space for new members, so if you like the idea of sharing your reading experience of the books we've chosen, please get in touch.

- April 29 Under the Greenwood Tree, Thomas Hardy
- May 27 Atonement, Ian McEwan
- June 24 I Capture the Castle, Dodie Smith
- July 22 Hotel du Lac, Anita Brookner

**Mary Waldmeyer**

## Natural History Programme 2025

Our meetings usually take place on the first Thursday of the month at 1.30.

- April 3rd Headland. Meet at the car park in front of the Borough Hall.
- May 1st. Saltholme. Meet in the entrance. There is a charge for non-members of the RSPB.
- June 5th Seaton Carew. Meet at the sea front where the nesting Terns are. There is a free car park in the park before you reach the sea front.
- July 3rd Cowpen Bewley. Meet in the car park.
- July 22nd Tuesday We may join the gardening group on a trip to Breezy Knees Garden near York. Liz Milbourn has circulated details about this.
- August 7th Summerhill Meet in the car park to do the Butterfly count.
- September 4th Blackhall Rocks. Meet in the car park off the main road.
- October 2nd Burn Valley Gardens to look for fungi. Meet at the zebra crossing entrance on Baden Street.
- November 6th Peoples centre for an indoor meeting. Last year we enjoyed a talk on weeds by Carole, bird song identification by Irene and Margaret and Geoff gave us an interesting talk about Thorpe Thewles wood.
- December No meeting.

**Further details from Irene Archer, Margaret Andrews and Beryl Turnbull.**

## Gardening Group

We are planning the following Garden group visits, with Lees of Durham coaches;

- Friday 2nd May Stokesley Market and Cherry Hill Garden centre £20
  - Friday May 25th May Yorkshire Sculpture Park, Wakefield. £31 Joint visit with the Arts Group who are organising it.
  - Sunday 1st June, Harlow Carr gardens near Harrogate, £36 including admission.
  - Wednesday 25th June. Thornton Hall gardens near Darlington by minibus not a Lees trip.
  - Tuesday 22nd July Breezy Knees Gardens, nursery and cafe near York. £35 including admission.
  - Wednesday 10th September, Northallerton market and Arcadia Garden Centre £19.
- Payment for these trips is required before booking, N.B. we do get a £2 reduction on the Lees prices above for group bookings. Please let us know if you want to go on any of these trips.

**Liz Milbourn and Helen Eustace**

## Quiz Anyone?

Each quiz will be held at 2 pm in the Community Room at the Central Hub (Library) on Tuesday 15th April; Tuesday 20th May. These are joint events with Stockton u3a.

**Jacky Armstrong**

# Churches and Cathedrals of Britain Quiz

Compiled by Barry Liddle

(Answers on Page 13)

Don't be put off by the theme of this quiz. You will be surprised by how much you know about British Churches and Cathedrals.

Q1 Where did the wedding of Prince Charles and Lady Diana Spencer take place on 29 July 1981?

- a) St Paul's Cathedral
- b) Westminster Abbey
- c) Westminster Cathedral

Q2 Several of England's historical cathedrals were damaged in bombing raids during World War One. But none suffered so terribly as:

- a) Coventry Cathedral
- b) Liverpool Cathedral
- c) Sheffield Cathedral

Q3 The Church of England parish church in the village of Hart was founded in 675 AD and is the oldest church in Hartlepool. What is its name?

- a) St John the Baptist Church
- b) St Mary Magdalene Church
- c) St Peter's Church

Q4 Which high ranking cleric was brutally murdered in Canterbury Cathedral in 1170?

- a) Thomas Becket
- b) Thomas More
- c) Thomas Wolsey

Q5 Can you name the cathedral in the High Street of Edinburgh, which forms part of the Royal Mile?

- a) Central Church
- b) St Mary's
- c) St Giles'

Q6 Which cathedral has the tallest spire in England?

- a) Canterbury
- b) Exeter
- c) Salisbury

Q7 Which church do the Royal family attend on Christmas Day?

- a) Chapel Royal at St James's Palace
- b) St George's Chapel at Windsor Castle
- c) St Mary Magdalene Church in Sandringham

Q8 The last major fire at York Minster, which destroyed the south transept, was caused by lightning in:

- a) 1948
- b) 1984
- c) 2004

Q9 Which British Cathedral has a Whispering Gallery?

- a) Canterbury Cathedral
- b) St Paul's Cathedral
- c) Southwark Cathedral

Q10 Who is buried under the floor just inside the great west door at Westminster Abbey?

- a) Alfred the Great
- b) The Unknown Warrior
- c) Sir Winston Churchill

Q11 Which former British Prime Minister's home overlooked Salisbury Cathedral?

- a) Ted Heath
- b) Harold Macmillan
- c) Harold Wilson

Q12 Ely Cathedral is located in which English County?

- a) Cambridgeshire
- b) Lincolnshire
- c) Norfolk

Q13 What do the following cities – Bath, Cambridge, Hull, Lancaster, Newport, Nottingham, Plymouth, Salford, Southampton, Stoke-on-Trent and Wolverhampton, have in common?

- a) They are all cities with an Anglican Cathedral
- b) They are all cities with a Catholic Cathedral
- c) They are all cities without a Cathedral.

Q14 Why do churches and cathedrals have Gargoyles?

- a) They are designed to channel rainwater away from the building's walls and foundations
- b) They are designed to attract evil spirits away from the church or cathedral.
- c) They are the 'signature' of the principal stonemason.

Q15 A 'Royal Peculiar' is:

- a) A Church of England church which is closest to a Royal Palace or official residence.
- b) A Church of England parish or church which is subject to the direct jurisdiction of the monarch.
- c) A Church of England church build before the reforms of Henry VIII

Q16 Which London church is nicknamed 'the actors church'?

- a) St. Georges, Bloomsbury
- b) St. Pauls, Covent Garden
- c) St. Mary Le Strand

Q17 A much-loved Festival of Nine Lessons and Carols is broadcast in the UK and around the world every Christmas Eve from which 500-year-old university chapel?

- a) Christ Church, Oxford
- b) King's College, Cambridge.
- c) Chapel of King's College, London.

Q18 The Cloister at Durham Cathedral is:

- a) A changing room for vestments and robes
- b) A side Chapel for individual or private worship
- c) A covered walkway

Q19 What is the largest religious building in Britain?

- a) Liverpool Cathedral
- b) Methodist Central Hall
- c) Westminster Abbey

Q20 Which well-known British poet loved visiting churches and described himself as a 'church crawler'.

- a) W. H. Auden
- b) Sir John Betjeman
- c) T. S. Eliot

# Directory

## List of Committee Members for 2025

### 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,

Paul Eustace, Helen Eustace.

## 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 a) St Paul's Cathedral; Q2 a) Coventry Cathedral; Q3 b) St Mary Magdalene Church; Q4 a) Thomas Becket; Q5 c) St Giles'; Q6 c) Salisbury; Q7 c) St Mary Magdalene Church in Sandringham; Q8 b) 1984; Q9 b) St Paul's Cathedral; Q10 b) The Unknown Warrior; Q11 a) Ted Heath; Q12 a) Cambridgeshire; Q13 c) They are all cities without a Cathedral; Q14 a) They are designed to channel rainwater away from the building's walls and foundations; Q15 b) A Church of England parish or church which is subject to the direct jurisdiction of the monarch; Q16 b) St. Pauls, Covent Garden; Q17 b) King's College, Cambridge; Q18 c) A covered walkway; Q19 a) Liverpool Cathedral; Q20 b) Sir John Betjeman.

## 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 April 2025.

**Barry Liddle, Newsletter Editor**