

# Newsletter

Hartlepool & District u3a  
Issue 100\*, September 2025



## Comments from the Chair

You may well have noticed that the last edition of the Newsletter was number 99 so it will come as no surprise that this edition is number 100. This extraordinary number has been achieved by our editor, Barry Liddle, to whom we owe a huge debt of gratitude. Not only does he edit our Newsletter but produces interesting articles, great photos and fun quizzes. I am marking this magnificent landmark by stepping away from my normal column by passing on tributes from the committee:

*"Fantastic achievement Barry; here's to the next hundred!"* **Wendy**

*"I would like to express my personal thanks and gratitude for your unwavering dedication, continued tirelessly hard work and creativity that have shaped the monthly Newsletter into something truly special that we can be proud of."* **Paul**

*"Thank you, Barry, for all your hard work and dedication producing the monthly magazine and congratulations on this 100th edition milestone."* **Helen**

*"Congratulations on your 100th edition of the Newsletter. I have enjoyed reading the many articles and the quizzes."* **Pauline**

*"A massive vote of thanks from myself and all of our members. We are all proud of the professional look of our Newsletter. 100 editions! Wow!"* **Roger**

Just a quick reminder that our next general meeting takes place on Friday 5th September when we will be holding another social event from 2 – 4 p.m. Please bring along some finger food to share, have a chat, have some fun and take the opportunity to meet new friends.

Meanwhile. Take care.

Roger

## Gardens and Gardening Group

Liz Milbourn and Helen Eustace

### July Garden Group Visit – Breezy Knees *(Photographs: Paul Eustace)*



Our July trip was to Breezy Knees, a stunning 20-acre garden located about five miles northeast of York. Described by Monty Don as “a beautiful modern garden” in his British Gardens TV series, it

certainly lived up to expectations. We travelled by minibus, and several of our members also joined the Lees of Durham coach trip.



It was a lovely day out and the weather stayed fine. The garden features large planting beds filled with bold blocks of the same plants, a wide range of seasonal borders, some oversized statues, and even a

topiary version of Stonehenge! The café served excellent food, and there was also a nursery to visit. Many thanks to Paul for the photos from the trip. (Please note there was no garden group visit in August, due to family commitments and holidays).

### September Garden Group Visit – Helmsley Walled Garden

We are visiting Helmsley Walled Garden on Tuesday, 10th September. This garden is still well worth visiting even as autumn approaches, and Helmsley itself is a delightful town to explore. We are going by minibus and there are still 2 places left on the minibus and the cost will be £23

If you wish to go, please let me or Helen know as soon as possible. We will leave from the Golden Lion car park at 10am and return from Helmsley at 3.30pm. Payment needs to be made in advance either by bank transfer to the u3a, or if you would prefer to pay by cash, please contact me to arrange.

### Looking Ahead to October.

We haven't finalised plans for October yet. It's likely to be a social gathering—perhaps at a garden centre or in a member's home. We'll keep you posted.

# Notice Board

## In Honour of the 100th Edition of the Newsletter

Extending a noble tradition  
Entirely of his own volition  
It's thanks to our Barry  
That emails can carry  
Our Newsletter's 100th edition

The articles come in all sizes  
All welcome, some even give prizes  
Some try fun to poke  
With a story or joke  
Whatever each author devises

But authors can sometimes be few  
We need always talent that's new  
So let ideas flow  
Give writing a go  
With that thought I'll bid you adieu

Note: if anyone should take exception to  
"adieu" being rhymed with "new", rather  
with "aver", I refer them to the lyrics of the  
1883 classic: "There is a Tavern in the  
Town", see  
[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/There\\_is\\_a\\_Tavern\\_in\\_the\\_Town#Lyrics](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/There_is_a_Tavern_in_the_Town#Lyrics)

**Phil Jefferies**

## Obituary

### Eric Midwinter

#### – Co-Founder Member of the u3a

It was recently announced in *The Times* newspaper that Eric Midwinter, co-founder member of the u3a movement died on 8<sup>th</sup> August 2025 at the age of 93 after a short illness.

Eric alongside Peter Laslett and Michael Young established the u3a in 1982. The u3a website records Eric reflecting on the origins of the u3a – "The starting point was the sense that older age should be looked on more positively and less negatively....I find it difficult some times now to believe how badly the imagery of old age was in the 1970s".

The u3a goes on to say – "to many Eric was seen as the face of the movement. He was instrumental in promoting the concept to the wider world".

## My Word of the Month

### 'Centenary'

As this is the hundredth edition since the first Newsletter was published, my word of the month has to be 'Centenary'.

Many thanks are owed to all members who have supported this Newsletter over many years by submitting a wide range of excellent articles, photographs, poems and miscellaneous items.

Barry Liddle (Editor)

## Who am I?

1 I was born in 1932 and I am a British singer and actress.

2 My professional career began during WWII as a child entertainer on BBC radio.

3 In 1954 I had a hit song with 'The Little Shoemaker'.

4 I have recorded songs in French, German, Italian and Spanish.

5 In the late 1960s my success extended to the USA with a run of career defining singles including 'Downtown,' 'I know my Place,' and 'My Love'.

6 I have sold between roughly between 70 and 100 million records

7 I received a Golden Globe nomination for my performance in the film 'Finian's Rainbow'.

8 I starred in several stage musicals including 'The Sound of Music' and 'Mary Poppins'

**Devised by Barry Liddle**

Answer on page 14

## Comic Sign

The Station Inn, Ribblesdale, in the Yorkshire Dales National Park. Submitted by Wendy Borthwick



## Autumn

© Barry Liddle



## Tuesday Book Club: end of year report

The Book Club has had a very full year since last September, with some wonderful books and great discussions. Sadly, we miss Jennifer Kerridge, who died so suddenly only a few days after we had discussed her book suggestion, *The Whicharts*, an earlier and much darker version of *Ballet Shoes*, by Noel Streatfeild. We miss her wide literary knowledge and insightful comments.

I have been a voracious reader since I first learned to read, but it was always a solitary pursuit. It is only in recent years that I've been able to experience sitting down with other readers to talk about a book which we've all read. During lockdown I joined a formal tutor led literature class, first on Zoom, then back to its usual location in Middlesbrough, with weekly sessions and guided learning. This has led me to read authors who I wouldn't have found for myself, to persevere with books that have been hard going, and to get new skills in reading and understanding literature. I really enjoy it and I really enjoy facilitating our U3A book club.

Tuesday Book Club is still small but we feel we are thriving and enjoying our time together and our book choices. We have space for more readers, so if any of the books we have chosen for the Autumn appeals to you, please come and join us and decide if you would like to come again. There's no pressure to contribute your ideas if you don't want to, but we can promise you space to be heard if you do.

Our books for the rest of the year are

- September 23 J L Carr's *A Month in the Country*
- October 28 *James* by Percival Everett
- November 25 *Some Short Stories* by Guy de Maupassant

We've yet to make a final decision about what to read in December, or where and when to meet, but whatever we choose, it will be fun.

**Mary Waldmeyer**

# Reflections on the Month of September.

Barry Liddle

This being the September issue of the Newsletter, I thought it might be interesting to reflect on the month of September itself, an important turning point in the year:

- **September is the start of the new academic year.** Wearing my 'rose tinted glasses', I seem to remember that the first day back at school was always sunny and warm (even if the weather over the summer holidays had been poor). The same 'rule' applies to the first day of the football and rugby seasons. A reverse rule applies to the first day of the summer cricket season – when it is guaranteed to rain, snow or hail!
- **September is associated with the harvest season** – a time to gather crops and celebrate the abundance of the season. The Harvest Festival is celebrated in schools and churches on the Sunday closest to the Harvest which typically occurs around the autumn equinox (usually in September but can be in October). Traditionally, congregations would donate seasonal fruit and vegetables and homemade breads, cakes and pies. Today the emphasis is on non-perishable food items like canned goods, pasta and cereal - perfect for distribution to Food Banks and other charitable causes.
- **September's Harvest Moon**, around the time of the autumnal equinox, is a full moon known for its bright light and the way it rises shortly after sunset. Several songs draw inspiration from the Harvest Moon. Neil Young's song of the same name is a well-known example as is 'Shine On, Harvest Moon' written in the early 1900s. September itself, features in several memorable songs such as 'September Morn' by Neil Diamond; 'September' by Earth Wind & Fire; and 'September Song' by various artists including Frank Sinatra and Willie Nelson.
- **September is the month when trees typically start changing colour** with the peak display in October or even November – depending on the tree species and weather conditions. Members of our u3a 'Photography for Fun Group' can speak with experience on the difficulty of timing a visit to capture autumn colours at their peak, as frosts and high winds can easily scupper the best laid plans. This year we have had a long dry summer so that may bring forward the display of autumn colours.



- **September is the anniversary of several major historical events in the UK**, including; The Battle of Stamford Bridge - when King Harold's army defeated the King of Norway on 25<sup>th</sup> Sept 1066 (we won't mention the Battle of Hastings a few weeks later); on the 2<sup>nd</sup> of September 1666 The Great Fire of London began, destroying a large portion of the city (read Samuel Pepys Diary for a first-hand account); On Sept 14 1752 the Gregorian calendar was adopted in Britain (this aligned us with the rest of Europe); and 27<sup>th</sup> September 1825 the world's first public railway service commenced with the opening of the Stockton and Darlington Railway (if you want more details about this Martin Green of this parish is extremely knowledgeable) .
- **September is traditionally the month for new TV programming**. Before the introduction of the internet and cable TV, when terrestrial channels ruled supreme, it was customary for TV schedules to change in September, which marked the end of the summer break (sport and repeats) and the return of new programming. This new season would see the launch of new shows and the return of popular favourites (building up to Christmas specials).
- **September is becoming the month when the 'C' word begins to be mentioned** – better known as Christmas. Supermarkets, like the sleight of hand of a magician, start introducing the first round of Christmas goods – mince pies, Christmas decorations and festive confectionary.
- **Lastly, September hosts a range of traditional events in Britain** including: The annual Braemar Gathering (Highland Games) attended each year by the British Royal Family and always held on the first Saturday in September; the International Sheepdog Trials (this year in Wrexham from 11-13 September); and Heritage Open Days (which allow visitors free access to heritage sites that are not usually open to the public or would normally charge an entrance fee). This year Heritage Open Days are between 12<sup>th</sup> and 21<sup>st</sup> of September.



*All Photographs © Barry Liddle*

### Time is not of the essence

You should never ever be hasty  
For it will often lead you astray  
Impetuosity may well be punished  
Lamented at the end of the day.  
Never make any rash decisions  
Never do owt on a whim  
Before you know what has happened  
You'll find yourself out on a limb  
Far better to sit and consider  
You should choose to prevaricate  
Drift off into a satisfying slumber  
For whatever it is can wait  
There are decisions foolishly made  
Rushed in the heat of the moment  
But this method of conducting affairs  
Be assured I'm not not a proponent.  
Better to sit back in your armchair  
Relax and take time to meditate  
There really is no need to hurry  
Remember: It's never too late

**Roger Say**

**Creative Writing Group**

## The Headland

© Barry Liddle



## Discovering Local History in Hartlepool North Cemetery

Wendy Borthwick

During Covid, when our freedoms were curtailed and community engagement frowned upon, I wandered into this old cemetery and found it provided all that was needed to be compliant with the Covid rules. Quite simply, there was just me and not another living soul to be seen, but it opened up a treasure trove of local history recorded on the remaining memorial head stones. So, with camera at the ready I started to collect the evidence.



This headstone caught my attention for no reason other than it was attractive and in good condition despite the one hundred and thirty plus years it had been there. Sadly, although not in its original position, it can now be found with many more lining the pathway on the south side of the cemetery; moved with permission from the Diocese of Durham.

Charles Albert Forslind was born 1849 in Argboga Sweden and arrived in (West) Hartlepool in the late 1860's and from humble beginnings built up a timber merchants' business which played an important role in timber importing in the town late 19th / early 20th century. He became a local ship owner and over time a prominent figure in the commercial life of (West) Hartlepool.

Aged 20 he served five years in the British Navy and on discharge a further four years in the merchant service prior to starting his business career which spanned approximately fifty years. He became a naturalized subject taking the Oath of Allegiance to her late Majesty Queen Victoria before the first Sir William Gray (then Mr William Gray).

Some points of Interest regarding Foslind's business ventures:

- When the brig, Safeguard (No. 14098) was wrecked on Seaton Sands, March 1879 it was broken up by C.A. Forslind who was in partnership with John Rex, known as Forslind & Rex Timber Merchants; a partnership that was dissolved November 1900.
- C.A. Forslind & Son was established in 1902, dissolved in 1916 but re-registered in 1917 and finally wound up in 1931. Although some of their ships were built in

Hartlepool they were registered in Sweden and Norway – possibly to retain the Scandinavian connection

Some points of Interest regarding Foslind’s family life:

- Charles married Harriet Humphreys in 1872. In 1881 they were living at 20 Archer Street, Stranton.
- At the time of his wife Harriet’s death in 1890 Charles and their two sons were living at Thomas Street.
- Charles remarried in October 1891 and in 1895 moved to ‘Westoe House in Grange Road. 1901 saw the family living in Wooler Road (the family made up of three sons and two daughters).
- The family moved to ‘Greystones’ Elwick Road built by Charles Albert approx. 1904.
- Charles Albert Forslind died on 11th February 1932 at his home Greystones in Elwick Road.

Some points of interest regarding the name of Forslind:

- ‘Forslind’, is of Swedish origin.
- From a pronunciation point of view perhaps, ‘Forslund’ would be more correct.
- The surname is made up of two words “fors” meaning “rapid” or “force” referring to a waterfall or fast-flowing stream, while “lund” refers to a small woodland. Therefore, Forslund can be interpreted as ‘waterfall in the woodland. But what’s in a name, we never know until we look!

*v Some information taken from HHT&N,*

## Down Memory Lane – Archaeology/History Group



Archaeology/History Group  
on a field trip to Trinity  
House, Newcastle 2017.

Photograph: David House

# The Space Travel Quiz

Devised by Barry Liddle

**Q1 What was the name of the first artificial satellite launched on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1957?**

- a) Sarmat
- b) Soyuz
- c) Sputnik

**Q2 Who was the first American in space on 5<sup>th</sup> May 1961?**

- a) Gordon Cooper
- b) John Glenn
- c) Alan Shepard

**Q3 Which Rocket was used to power the Apollo Space Program?**

- a) Mercury Redstone
- b) Saturn V
- c) Titan II GLV

**Q4 NASA is the acronym for:**

- a) National Aeronautics and Space Administration
- b) National Avionics and Space Administration
- c) North America Air Space Administration

**Q5 Who was the first British person to travel in space?**

- a) Michael Foale
- b) Tim Peake
- c) Helen Sharman

**Q6 For a rocket to get into orbit around the Earth, it needs to reach a speed of:**

- a) 7, 600 miles per hour
- b) 17, 600 miles per hour.
- c) 27,600 miles per hour

**Q7 Who was the first woman in space?**

- a) Sally Ride
- b) Svetlana Savitskaya
- c) Valentina Tereshkova

**Q8 Opportunity, Curiosity and Perseverance are:**

- a) NASA Landers sent to Mars
- b) NASA Orbiters sent to Mars
- c) NASA Rovers sent to Mars

**Q9 Who wrote 2001: A Space Odyssey?**

- a) Arthur C. Clarke
- b) H. G. Wells
- c) Isaac Asimov

**Q10 There are two operational space stations in orbit around the Earth. The international Space Station (ISS) is one. Who owns the other?**

- a) China
- b) Japan
- c) SpaceX

**Q11 When the Earth and Pluto are at their closest, the distance a rocket ship would have to travel is approximately:**

- a) 1.66 million miles
- b) 2.66 million miles
- c) 2.66 billion miles

**Q12 The 'European Space Agency' headquarters are located in:**

- a) Bern
- b) Brussels
- c) Paris

**Q13 Douglas Adam's famous book 'The Hitchhiker's Guide to the Galaxy', follows the misadventures of the last surviving Earth man. What is his name?**

- a) Arthur Dent
- b) Billy Dent
- c) Willy Dent

**Q14 You are in a spaceship heading for the largest planet in our solar system. What is the destination?**

- a) Jupiter
- b) Saturn
- c) Uranus

**Q15 The Falcon Heavy is a super heavy-lift launch vehicle with partial reusability that can carry cargo into Earth orbit and beyond. It is designed and manufactured by:**

- a) Blue Origin
- b) Lockheed Martin
- c) SpaceX

**Q16 Who was the last man to walk on the moon?**

- a) Eugene Cernan
- b) Ronald Evans
- c) Harrison Schmitt

**Q17 Both these space themed songs - 'Space Oddity' and 'Starman,' were written by:**

- a) David Bowie
- b) Elton John
- c) Jeff Lynne

**Q18 NASA has a current programme designed to establish a permanent moon base. What is the programme called?**

- a) Artemis
- b) Columbus
- c) Enterprise

**Q19 Where did Apollo 11 land on the moon?**

- a) Sea of Tranquility
- b) Sea of Plenty
- b) Sea of Serenity

**Q20 Which pop singer recently went into space as part of an all-woman crew on Blue Origin's New Shepard rocket?**

- a) Mariah Carey
- b) Ariana Grande
- c) Katy Perry

Answers on Page 14

# Directory

## Committee Members for 2025/26

### Chair, Speaker Finder & Web Admin.

Roger Say

### Vice Chair–

Paul Eustace

### Business Secretary –

Wendy Borthwick

### Treasurer –

Cliff Cordiner

### Membership Secretary –

Andrea Reid

### Beacon Admin.

Pauline Williamson

### Group Co-ordinators

Pauline Williamson & Helen Eustace.

### Minutes Secretary

Paul Eustace

### Committee –

Keith Alder.

## Roles of Non- Committee Members

### Newsletter Editor-

Barry Liddle

## Interest Group Leaders

**Archaeology/History Group:** Chris McLoughlin.

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

**Backgammon Group** Ann Gardiner

**Bridge:** Phil Jefferies.

**Chess Group:** Roger Say.

**Coffee & Chat** Jacky Armstrong

**Creative Writing Group:** Roger Say.

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

**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

**Walking Group:** Keith Alder

## Quiz Answers

**Q1** c) Sputnik; **Q2** c) Alan Shepard; **Q3** b) Saturn V; **Q4** a) National Aeronautics and Space Administration; **Q5** c) Helen Sharman; **Q6** b) 17, 600 miles per hour; **Q7** c) Valentina Tereshkova; **Q8** c) NASA Rovers sent to Mars; **Q9** a) Arthur C. Clarke; **Q10** a) China; **Q11**

c) 2.66 billion miles; **Q12** c) Paris; **Q13** a) Arthur Dent; **Q14** b) Saturn; **Q15** c) SpaceX; **Q16** a) Eugene Cernan; **Q17** a) David Bowie; **Q18** a) Artemis; **Q19** a) Sea of Tranquility;

**Q20** c) Katy Perry.

Answer to Who am I? Petula Clark

## 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 September 2025.

**Barry Liddle, Newsletter Editor**