

# Newsletter

Hartlepool & District u3a

Issue 107, April 2026

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live



Spring in Ward Jackson Park. © Barry Liddle

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## Comments from the Chair



I do not usually use this column to describe personal experiences, but this is going to be an exception. Many of you were at last month's general meeting when we had a great talk from Andy Hampson about how to keep safe online and avoid being scammed. He gave some excellent advice which I hope we all follow. I have not been scammed but I have had the misfortune of my computer crashing resulting in the loss of all the data on it. Luckily, I have had the sense to back up my work on a portable hard drive on a fairly regular basis so although I have lost some important material I have recovered a lot of it. I strongly recommend that if you use a computer back it up and not on a 'fairly' regular basis as I did. Notice the change of tense. I will be far more diligent in the future.

We have a new guest speaker next month. We will be welcoming Leah Johnstone as our guest speaker. Leah is a representative for 'Trees for cities' a UK charity promoting improved lives by planting and caring for trees and cities. Leah is the project manager for the ongoing project in Hartlepool. The meeting takes place as usual at 2pm, in St. Joseph's Church Community Hall on Hutton Avenue. Don't forget that the date has changed to April 10th as the 3rd is Good Friday. Our guest speaker for May will be Denis Fox so that is something else to look forward to.

Fingers crossed that the springlike weather we have been having recently will continue over Easter and we can enjoy the pleasures of nature springing into life.

I look forward to seeing you on April 10th.

Meanwhile

Take care (and back up your computers!)

Roger

# The 1957 April Fool's Day Hoax– The Spaghetti Harvest

Barry Liddle

As this is the April edition of the Newsletter, I thought we must have an item to commemorate April Fool's Day.

Whilst there is no clear agreement on the origins of April Fool's Day, the appeal of practical jokes, hoaxes and pranks remains extremely popular. I'm not so keen on some practical jokes and pranks as they can often be cruel to the recipient(s), but I do like hoaxes – particularly those that are so clever that many believe them to be true. The BBC's 1957 hoax remains one of the best.

**The 1957 BBC Spaghetti Harvest Hoax.** This was possibly the first time an April Fool's Hoax had been broadcast on a major TV channel, and the hoax was given credibility by being broadcast via an edition of *Panorama* – the world's longest running current affairs TV programme and by the fact that the narration was provided by Richard Dimbleby, the doyen of British broadcasters.

The hoax centred around a young family in Ticino, Switzerland, gathering the spaghetti harvest from spaghetti trees and laying it on the ground to dry in the warm sunshine. The programme also reported that after many years of development a strain of spaghetti had been developed that produced a crop that is the perfect length for cooking and it was also reported that the 1957 harvest was a bumper one due to the mild winter and the virtual elimination of the baneful spaghetti weevil.

The BBC was able to successfully 'blur the line' between fact and fiction because most viewers in 1957 had no first-hand experience of overseas holidays to spaghetti eating countries and secondly, most Brits only ate tinned spaghetti – usually on toast.

The hoax became famous worldwide, but the BBC said that at the time the programme generated a mixed reaction, some viewers thought the item was too lightweight for the heavyweight *Panorama*, whilst others asked where they could buy a spaghetti tree. Some asked even asked how they could cultivate their own trees and reputedly the BBC advised viewers to 'plant a sprig of spaghetti in a tin of tomato sauce and hope for the best'!

I was mere toddler in 1957 and so was probably in bed when the programme was broadcast live to the nation, but the success of the hoax meant that I have seen it repeated several times since. If this hoax has somehow passed you by, it can be viewed in several editions on YouTube. Well worth a watch but remember it is best viewed through 1950's spectacles!

**Sources:** *Google AI Searches; Wikipedia the free encyclopaedia; BBC Website; You Tube.*

**“Now You See Me: Now You Don’t.”**

Ray Elliston captures a group of well camouflaged ‘Ruddy Turnstones’ at the Pilot Pier.



**“What Did One Ladybird Say to the Other Ladybird?”**

Answers on a postcard please to Ray Elliston, who took the photograph



**“Are You Lonesome Tonight”**

If you look long enough at Ray Elliston’s photo of this solitary Ladybird, you might just hear *Elvis Presley* singing in the background



## Membership Renewal 2026

Cliff Cordiner, Treasurer.

Preparations for Membership renewal for 2026 are well underway and an email will be sent shortly inviting you to rejoin for those of you who have chosen this form of communication.

The u3a uses NatWest for our bank account and the Hartlepool branch will be closing soon which will have implications for all of us.

Many members renew their membership via online banking and we hope more members will embrace this form of payment. You will still be able to pay by cheque or cash for the time being but when the NatWest branch closes, we will be unable to bank cash. While it will be possible for us to pay cash in using the Post Office, there are limitations so we will need to limit cash payments wherever possible. I would therefore urge you to consider changing to online direct bank payment not only for the annual membership renewal, but also for any organised trips in the coming year. It is the easiest and most secure way to pay.

The good news is that the subscription for 2026 will be REDUCED to just £15 (or £10 for Associate Members). Those who wish to pay by cash or cheque can do so at the general meeting on 10th April 2026.

Anyone who wishes to renew by online bank transfer can do so after 5th April 2026. Please do not make payment by this method before then. If you wish to pay by BACS and do not already do so, let us know and we will email you the relevant bank details.

As you renew your membership, please can I remind you to take a few moments to check your contact details and emergency contact, and let us know if anything has changed.

Can I also remind you that if you do not already take the u3a magazine "u3a Matters", now would be a good time to let us know if you would like to subscribe. It is issued quarterly so just let us know your preference as you renew your membership. It is full of useful and informative articles, puzzles, recipes, and exclusive offers for u3a members.

Conversely if you no longer wish to receive it, please let us know now as the u3a are charged £4.20 per head for every magazine. Nobody likes to spend money they do not have to, and it would free up funds to be spent elsewhere for the benefit of everyone.

Interest groups continue to go from strength to strength with several new ones springing up, and our membership numbers are continuing to increase steadily. If you have any suggestions for other new groups you would like to see please let us know.

And finally, without a committee there is no u3a. New faces are always welcome so if you think you can help in any way, please let us know.

## Down Memory Lane 1: Hart Reservoir



### (c) Martin Green

This wonderful photograph of Hart Reservoir was taken about 10 years ago by Martin Green. The reservoir was built in the nineteenth and early twentieth centuries (1) to supply water which was then turned into steam to power local shipbuilding industries at the old docks (2). The reservoir was never used for domestic drinking water and Martin's photograph was taken before the reservoir was drained in 2019 (2). The reservoir has a small, castellated tower at the end of a short pier (1) and this contrasts with the modern wind turbines in the background. Various sources have announced that there are proposals to redevelop the reservoir site for new housing development.

*Sources (1) Hartlepool History Now & Then (2) Nick Marko, Local Democracy Reporting Service.*

# Are You a 'Time Contractor' or a 'Time Estimator'?

Barry Liddle

Durning my working life I attended countless meetings – both internally and externally. After reading a newspaper article many years ago, I realised that fellow attendees could be divided into two groups - those who strived to turn up on time ('Time Contractors') and those thought that they were actually 'on time' even if they were 10-20 minutes late, the so called (Time Estimators).\*

I was always a 'Time Contractor' - usually arriving at meetings a little early to ensure that I was on time. Someone who took this approach to an extreme level was the legendary American football coach Vince Lombardi who famously enforced a strict punctuality code known as 'Lombardi Time', requiring players and staff to arrive 15 minutes early for meetings and practice. He summarised his philosophy as: *"If you are early, you're on time; if you're on time, you're late; and if you are late, don't even bother showing up"*.

If Lombardi had chaired all the meeting I attended then very few would have taken place. In my experience, 'Time Estimators' were just as likely to have been chairing meetings as attending them – so adopting 'Lombardi Time' would have been impossible. One had to accept that most meetings started late on a sliding scale from a few minutes to many more. I once had a colleague who was the archetypal 'Time Estimator,' almost never arriving on time and often leaving before the end to attend his next meeting for which he would probably also be late.

'Time Estimators' rarely apologise for being late, they just slip into the room as if arriving on time, and I'm sure that in their own minds, arriving anything up to 15 minutes late is on time! Of course, 'Time Estimators' eventually got their comeuppance when they come-up against the rigidity of rail and airline timetables.

As I mentioned earlier, I was always a 'Time Contractor' possibly with Lombardi tendencies, ever since I was little. This however was not true of my dad, who was the classic 'Time Estimator'-perhaps demonstrating that time management is not necessarily always inherited. My dad worked for a series of construction companies that deducted pay for lateness and my dad was often 'quarter houred' for arriving in the morning up to 15 minutes late.

Looking back on my career in both academia and local government, most people were instinctively either 'Time Contractors' or 'Time Estimators' but this dichotomy also becomes apparent away from the world of work. We all know family and friends who are regularly on-time or regularly late when it comes to social events such as meeting for a drink, going for a meal, attending a football match or going on holiday together. It also manifests when it comes to fixed-time events such as medical appointments, weddings, and even funerals.

I'm not sure if the 'Time Contractor' / 'Time Estimator' thesis applies universally across all cultures. Perhaps that is the subject for a future article. However, I would venture to say that

the natural innate tendency of individuals to be either a 'Time Contractor or Estimator' is likely to be influenced by their cultural environment. For example, in the course of my work my colleagues and I met several visiting Japanese delegations and we were pre-warned by the event organisers that for the Japanese, punctuality is highly valued and being even a few minutes early is seen as respectful. In this context, Japanese 'Time Estimators' are under cultural pressure to amend their instinctive behaviour in order to conform to cultural norms regarding good timekeeping. In contrast having attended meetings and conferences abroad, it was apparent that in some Mediterranean countries the culture regarding time-management was much more relaxed and the official start time of meetings was viewed as more of a suggestion than an actual expectation.

*Notes: \* I have a vague memory of having come across the terms 'Time Contractor' and 'Time Estimator' in a Newspaper article, but that was 30-40 years ago and subsequently I have been unable to trace the article or author of the article.*

***(If you have any views or anecdotes on issues relating to this article then please send them to the Editor – the best of which will be published in next month's Newsletter.)***

## Down Memory Lane 2: A Distant View of Teesside from New Marske Wood.



**(c) Martin Green 2011.**

# Member's Notice Board

## Interest Groups - Dates for Your Diary

Helen Eustace

### **March 24<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday Book Club.**

New Venue. Newcastle Building Society at 2pm. New readers' welcome. This month's book is 'Raising Hare' by Chloe Dalton. For further information contact Mary Waldmeyer.

### **30th March, IT Group.**

This group will focus on computers and will meet between 2pm and 4pm. The venue will be at Utilita on York Road. If you would like to join this group please contact Jan Jenner

### **April 2<sup>nd</sup>, Natural History Group.**

Visit to Saltholme. Meet in the entrance of the visitor's centre at 1.30pm to see what migrant birds have arrived and then finish off with a 'cuppa'.

### **April 6<sup>th</sup>, Coffee and Chat Group**

10.30am at the Golden Lion

### **April 6<sup>th</sup>, Photography Group (cancelled)**

The photography group has been put on hold for the time being. Anybody interested in joining this group please contact Jan Jenner.

### **April 9<sup>th</sup>, Archaeology and History Group**

The People's Centre, Raby Road, 10.30am for 11.00am Derek Potter returns to give one of his talks. This time 1960's Gangland Newcastle = The murder of Angus Sibbett.

### **April 10<sup>th</sup>.General Meeting**

St. Josephs Church Hall at 2pm. Please note the change of date as this is not the first Friday in the month as usual, as the first Friday falls on Good Friday. This month's speaker is called Leah Johnstone who is representing 'Trees for cities', which is the only UK charity working at a national and international scale to improve lives by planting trees in cities. The charity gets stuck in with local communities to cultivate lasting change in their neighbourhoods, whether its revitalising forgotten spaces, creating healthier environments, or getting people excited about growing, foraging and eating healthy foods. They have two projects locally, one at Bishop Cuthbert and the other near the Phoenix Centre.

### **April 13<sup>th</sup>, Garden Group**

Visit to Spilman's Farm, Tulip Festival, near Thirsk (YO7 3NB) A new venture for Spilman's who are already well known for their 'pick your own' fruits and pumpkin festival. Pre bunched tulips can be purchased from the farm. Transport by minibus. Entry approximately £8.00

### **April 14<sup>th</sup>, Poetry Group**

Peoples Centre between 2pm and 4pm. With all the hype of Wuthering Heights we will be reading the Brontes.

**April 28th, Tuesday Book Club**

New venue at Newcastle Building Society on York Road at 2pm. We will be reading 'Strong Poison' by Dorothy Sayers. For further information contact Mary Waldmeyer.

**May 7<sup>th</sup>, Natural History (and Garden Group).**

Trip to the Botanic Gardens in Durham. This will be a joint visit with the Gardening Group. Transport will be approximately £14 and entry to the gardens approximately £5.00. For more details, please contact Liz Milbourn, Helen Eustace, Irene Archer, Margaret Andrews or Beryl Turnbull

**May 11th. I.T Group (Mobile Phones and Tablets)**

New venue at Utilita, York Road. The IT Group has now been split into two groups. This group will focus on mobile phones and tablets and will meet between 2pm and 4pm. This group is for people interested in technology. We will learn how to use modern technology to make life easier and more fun, as well as keeping safe online and protecting ourselves from scammers.

**May 12<sup>th</sup>, Poetry Group**

Peoples Centre between 2pm and 4pm. In May we will be reading poems by Simon Armitage

**June 4<sup>th</sup>, Natural History Group**

Headland. Meet in the carpark of the Borough Hall at 1.30pm to have a stroll along the front to see what plants and birds there are. Then refreshments at Mary Rowntrees.

**June 20th, Saturday, Garden Group**

A return to Tudor Croft Guisborough (TS14 8DL), following our February snowdrops visit. This time to see the garden in its full summer glory. These spectacular gardens open for two weekends in June, in aid of charity. We will be organising a minibus to this event. Cost to be confirmed.

**July 7<sup>th</sup>, Garden Group**

Trip to Raby Castle and Gardens, Staindrop, near Barnard Castle. This 14th century castle sits within five acres of recently remodelled gardens, featuring the castle, gardens, deer park, restaurant and farm shop. Costs to be confirmed.

**August 6<sup>th</sup>, Natural History**

Spion Kop Cemetery, Headland. Park outside of the Cemetery and meet at the main entrance at 1.30pm to see what wildflowers and birds there are.

**Limerick**

A spinster from Anderby Creek  
Was anything other than meek  
She pushed folk about  
Or gave them a clout  
And thusly much havoc did wreak

Phil Jefferies



Martin Green's photograph encouraging everyone to eat their 'Five a Day'.

## News from Tuesday Book Club

Membership of this group has been a great pleasure to me. We recommend not only books, but also films, plays and other literary events to each other.

We have enjoyed the first two books of 2026, Jamaica Inn by Daphne du Maurier and Precipice by Robert Harris; both new to me and recommended by a member of the group. I must have read Jamaica Inn as a teenager but remembered nothing of the very exciting plot and the extraordinarily brave heroine. And Precipice is a riveting read based on the relationship between Prime Minister Herbert Asquith and the young socialite, Venetia Stanley in 1914 using his actual letters which she kept. I shall definitely be reading more Robert Harris novels.

In March we are reading our first ever non-fiction book Raising Hare by Chloe Dalton. If you have read the book and would like to come along and discuss it, we will be meeting on Tuesday 24 March at 2 pm at the Newcastle Building Society. We are limited to 8 at the NBS so please let me know if you'd like to come.

And through the summer we are planning to read some of our favourite crime novels:

- Strong Poison by Dorothy Sayers on April 28th.
- Case Studies by Kate Atkinson on May 26th.
- A Dying Fall by Ellie Griffiths on June 23rd.

We usually meet at the Newcastle Building Society at 2 o'clock on the fourth Tuesday of the month and have space for 2 or 3 new members. We are very grateful for the use of their conference room – and the free coffee.

**Mary Waldmeyer**

## **Garden Group Programme 2026**

### **Travel and Booking Arrangements** 🌸

The Garden Group's March meeting was a visit to Green Lane Nursery for coffee and lunch. The restaurant was very busy, so much of our time was spent making sure we kept our tables for lunch, not leaving much time to see all the plants!

- **Monday 13 April Visit to Spilmans Farm Tulip Festival** 🌷 **Near Thirsk, YO7 3NB**

This is a new venture for Spilmans Farm, who are already well known for their annual Pick Your Own soft fruits and pumpkin festival.

Transport will be by minibus. At present we do not yet have enough people to fill a minibus, if we can get 16 people the cost will be £18 per person.

Entry to the event will be approximately £7.00.

- **Thursday 7 May Joint visit with the Natural History Group to Durham Botanic Garden** 🌳

The coach has been booked and the cost will be £12 per person.

Those who are going are asked to arrange payment to the u3a as soon as possible. There are still places available, so please contact us if anyone from the wider u3a would like to join the trip.

Departure: 10:30am from the Golden Lion. Admission to the Botanic Garden and the Deer Park will be £14, with a group discount if booked in advance.

- **Saturday 20 June Return Visit to Tudor Croft, Guisborough** 🏠

Following our February snowdrops visit, we will return to see the gardens in their full summer glory.

- **Tuesday 7 July Trip to Raby Castle and Gardens** 🏰

Located at Staindrop, near Barnard Castle, this impressive 14th-century castle features five acres of recently remodelled gardens, along with a deer park, restaurant, and farm shop.

The lists for both the Tudor Croft and Raby Castle trips are now full. However, you may add your name to a reserve list if you would like to attend.

#### **Future Visits Under Consideration**

- The recently remodelled **Palace Gardens at Bishop Auckland**
- **Kirkleatham**, near Redcar, with its beautiful walled gardens and café.

**Helen Eustace and Liz Milbourn**



## Pondering Life's Little Choices

Roger Say, Chair of Hartlepool and District u3a

### **Full English or cereal & toast?**

Cereal and toast

### **Holiday abroad or Staycation?**

One week away in winter, otherwise staycation

### **Dog or Cat?**

I love both – except when it's raining

### **Christmas Day or Boxing Day?**

Boxing day for the sport

### **Wine or Beer?**

Beer as long as it's real ale

### **Beatles or Rolling Stones?**

Early Rolling Stones, later Beatles

### **Meat or Lentils?**

I'm a flexitarian

### **Dr Who or Star Trek?**

Early Star Trek was great fun

### **Cappuccino or Espresso?**

A nice cuppa tea

### **Night in or Night Out?**

Occasional night out for a quiz night or to watch a live band

### **Coronation Street or Eastenders?**

Yuk!

### **Football or Rugby?**

I have a season ticket for The Pools so it would have to be rugby

### **Cheese & Onion or Salt & Vinegar crisps?**

Either

### **Shopping or Anything Else?**

I enjoy shopping for food

### **Garlic or No Garlic.**

Garlic for sure. Couldn't do without it.

### **Pudding or Cheese & Biscuits?**

Fruit and yoghurt

### **Cash or Card**

Card for large purchases, cash buying a paper or a pint.

### **Whisky or Gin & Tonic?**

Don't really touch spirits but enjoy a single malt occasionally

### **Night Owl or Lark?**

Enjoy early mornings as the natural world springs into life.

### **White or Brown Bread?**

Sourdough or wholemeal

### **The Flintstones or Noggin the Nog**

Enjoyed both

### **Ketchup or Brown Sauce?**

Rarely use sauce but brown sauce would be more likely

### **Morris Minor or Ford Anglia**

I had a Morris Minor Traveller which I loved 0 – 60 in 5 minutes. My favourite car!

### **Tripe & Onions or Liver & Onions**

Like both without the tripe or liver

### **Darts or Snooker**

Playing darts and watching snooker

### **Sherry or Cocktail.**

Neither to be honest

### **Social Media or No Social Media**

Only use for group activities notices

### **Avocado on Toast or Beans on Toast.**

Beans on toast win easily

### **Mods or Rockers?**

Was more of a hippy in those days

### **Crossword Puzzles or Sudoku?**

Attempt the misnamed Quick crossword In the Grauniad

### **Indian Takeaway or Chinese Takeaway?**

Prefer Indian food but in a restaurant

### **Strictly Come Dancing or Bangers and Cash?**

Never heard of Bangers and Cash but it is probably preferable to Strictly.

### **Salad Cream or Mayonnaise?**

Don't use either

### **Regular Exercise or No Exercise?**

I walk most days and play badminton occasionally

### **Is your glass half full or half empty?**

Either way they need a refill

### Royal Airforce and April Fool's Day

Did you know the Royal Air Force (RAF) was formed 108 years ago on April Fool's Day (1<sup>st</sup> April) 1918, through the merger of the Royal Flying Corps (RFC) and the Royal Naval Air Service (RNAS). At the time of its formation the RAF was the largest air force in the world and its first headquarters were the former Hotel Cecil on the Strand in London. The RAF's motto is '*Per Ardua ad Astra*' meaning 'Through Adversity to the Stars' and has evolved from wood and canvas biplanes to the modern air and space force of today.

### Wordplay and Numbers

Some common idioms & phrases:

- "Two's company, three's a crowd"
- "Dressed to the Nines"
- "Back to square one"
- "Figure of eight".
- "On cloud- nine"
- "Catch-22"
- "Sixth- sense"

Can you think of any others? Let me know and I'll publish them in the next Newsletter.

### Who Am I?

1. I was born on 24 November 1930.
2. I played professional cricket for Surrey and England.
3. I was a right-handed batsman and occasional leg-spin bowler.
4. My batting improved with the quality of the opposition, averaging 39.87 in County cricket; 45.63 in all first-class cricket; 58.67 in Test cricket and 63.96 in the Ashes against Australia.
5. I scored over 6000 Test runs.
6. In Test cricket my highest score was 256 at Old Trafford in 1964.
7. I was the first batsman to score hundreds at all 6 of England's traditional Test grounds.
8. My Test career ended prematurely and abruptly in 1968 following a heart attack in Australia.
9. I was known for my long defensive innings and was once controversially dropped by England in 1965 after taking 7.5 hours to score 137 against New Zealand.
10. I was a well-known sayer of 'malapropisms' such as "The press went through the food like a swarm of *lotuses*".

**Answer on Page 18**

### My Word of the Month: Collywobbles

Collywobbles are best defined as having stomach pains or queasiness. It can also be used to describe intense anxiety or nervousness, for example: "the thought of paying good money to watch Hartlepool United gave him the Collywobbles".

**Q1 UK chocolate manufacturing companies - Cadbury, Rowntree's and Fry's, have the following in common:**

- a) They were all established by members of the same family
- b) They were all established by Methodists
- c) They were all established by Quakers

**Q2 Which shipbuilding company built The Titanic?**

- a) John Brown & Co
- b) Harland and Wolff
- c) Swan Hunter

**Q3 Amstrad plc was a British consumer electronics company, known for its home computers. The company was founded in 1968 by which British businessman:**

- a) Sir Alan Sugar
- b) Sir Richard Branson
- c) Sir James Dyson

**Q4 Which car, produced between 1948 and 1990, was designed to carry a basket of eggs across a ploughed field without breaking them?**

- a) Citroen 2CV
- b) Fiat 500
- c) Renault 4

**Q5 The Reinheitsgebot (German Beer Purity Law) introduced in 1516 dictates that only the following ingredients can be used in the brewing of beer in Germany:**

- a) Water, hops, yeast and barley
- b) Water, hops, yeast and maize
- c) Water, hops, yeast and wheat

**Q6 In the automotive sector 'Just-in-Time Manufacturing' is popular. What is it?**

- a) A lean production strategy that aligns raw material orders from suppliers directly with production schedules, ensuring materials arrive only when needed.
- b) A lean production strategy that requires daily delivery of all components.
- c) A lean production strategy that stockpiles only the key components,

**Q7 'Walkers' is the undisputed market leader in the UK for the manufacture of crisps and savoury snack. Where is their traditional manufacturing base?**

- a) Birmingham
- b) Leicester
- c) Nottingham

**Q8 Car Manufacturers increasingly use Torque Values in their marketing campaigns. What exactly is Torque?**

- a) It measures the car's ability to corner safely at different speeds.
- b) It's the engine's rotational or twisting force that makes the wheels turn, representing its "pulling power" for acceleration, towing, and climbing hills.
- c) It measures the rate at which an engine produces power, directly influencing a vehicle's top speed.

**Q9 Historically, the City of Dundee was renowned for the 'Three Js'.**

- a) Jam, Jellies and Journalism
- b) Jute, Jam and Journalism
- c) Jute, Jellies and Jigs

**Q10 In manufacturing, what is a Bill of Materials (BOM)?**

- a) An invoice given to a supply chain company
- b) A list materials subject to Value Added Tax
- c) A list of raw materials, components, sub-assemblies and instructions required to manufacture a finished product.

**Q11 The primary manufacturer of cricket balls for first-class cricket in England (the County Championship and Test matches) is:**

- a) Dukes
- b) Kookaburra
- c) Readers

**Q12 Which automotive manufacturing company used to produce cars under the 'Datsun' Brand?**

- a) Honda
- b) Nissan
- c) Toyota

**Q13 Wilkins & Sons (Tiptree), with a history dating back to 1885, are renowned manufacturers of:**

- a) Condiments and Gourmet Sauces
- b) Cornichons, Gherkins and Olives
- c) Jams, Marmalades and Fruit Preserves

**Q14 James Hargreaves invention in 1764 allowed a single operator to spin multiple spools of thread, increasing yarn production and helping to trigger the Industrial Revolution. What was the machine called?**

- a) The Spinning Hank
- b) The Spinning Jenny
- c) The Spinning Carder

**Q15 Which manufacturing company developed the modern three-point seat belt and opened the patent to all other manufacturers, thereby saving an incalculable number of lives?**

- a) BMW
- b) Saab
- c) Volvo

**Q16 Former Prime Minister Harold Wilson was famous for wearing a coat manufactured by his friend Lord Kagan. What type of coat was it?**

- a) Burberry Trench Coat
- b) Crombie Overcoat
- c) Gannex Raincoat

**Q17 Lithium is a critical raw material in modern manufacturing, with over three-quarters of global production dedicated to:**

- a) Air Conditioning
- b) Batteries
- c) Semiconductors

**Q18 The most iconic James Bond car, featuring in 6 films is:**

- a) Aston Martin DB5
- b) BMW Z3
- c) Sunbeam Alpine

**Q19 BSA, Royal Enfield and Norton are famous traditional brands of:**

- a) Cars
- b) Engines
- c) Motorcycles

**Q20 Which manufacturer is responsible for producing this select range of products across several sectors - *Dove; Pond's; Lifebuoy; Persil; Cif; Knorr; Hellmann's Mayonnaise; Pot Noodle; Marmite; and Magnum ice cream?***

- a) Procter & Gamble
- b) Nestle
- c) Unilever

# 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.

**Events:** see notice board

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

**Fun with Fabrics:** Ann Say

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

**I.T. Group:** Jan Jenner

**Lawn Bowls:** Ray Elliston.

**Music:** Vacant

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

**Photography Group:** Jan Jenner

**Play Reading:** Carol Currie

**Poetry:** Margaret Chappell

**Quiz Team:** John Campbell.

**Reading Group:** Andrea Reid

**Shibashi Exercise Group:** Marjorie Reynolds.

**Stroll and Chat:** Helen Eustace

**Tuesday Book Club:** Mary Waldmeyer

**Walking Group:** Keith Alder

Who Am I? Answer, Ken Barrington

## Quiz Answers

**Q1** c) They were all established by Quakers; **Q2** b) Harland and Wolff; **Q3** a) Sir Alan Sugar; **Q4** a) Citroen 2CV; **Q5** a) Water, hops, yeast and barley; **Q6** a) A lean production strategy that aligns raw material orders from suppliers directly with production schedules, ensuring materials arrive only when needed; **Q7** b) Leicester; **Q8** b) It's the engine's rotational or twisting force that makes the wheels turn, representing its "pulling power" for acceleration, towing, and climbing hills; **Q9** b) Jute, Jam and Journalism; **Q10** c) A list of raw materials, components, sub-assemblies and instructions required to manufacture a finished product; **Q11** a) Dukes; **Q12** b) Nissan; **Q13** c) Jams, Marmalades and Fruit Preserves; **Q14** b) The Spinning Jenny; **Q15** c) Volvo; **Q16** c) Gannex Raincoat; **Q17** b) Batteries; **Q18** a) Aston Martin DB5; **Q19** c) Motorcycles ; **Q20** c) Unilever.

## 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 March 2026.

**Barry Liddle, Newsletter Editor**