

# Newsletter

Hartlepool & District u3a

Issue 109, June 2026

**u3a** learn,  
laugh,  
live



**Scarecrow Competition at Alnwick Gardens** © Barry Liddle

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## Comments from the Chair



**Our next general meeting will be our AGM on Friday June 5th at the usual time of 2 pm.** Our u3a has come a long way since our inauguration in 2011 and we now have a wide range of interest groups despite our being one of the smallest u3as in the country. This is down to you, the members, for this happy state of affairs. We are lucky to have so many dedicated people willing to give up their time and put in the effort required to keep everything running smoothly. Thanks to everyone for making this possible.

We will be holding a social event after the AGM including a fuddle where you can bring along finger food to share. Tea and coffee will be available free of charge. There will be a stall with plants for sale courtesy of the Gardening Group and other group leaders will be available

to show you what they have been doing and answer any queries you may have. Some of them, including the Creative Writing group, are keen to attract new members so have a chat with group leaders to find out more about their groups. There will be other fun activities taking place during the afternoon.

Our guest speaker for July will be our very own Peter Stoker who will be talking to us about houses: the details he is keeping close to his chest. His last talk was highly entertaining, and I am expecting more of the same this time. I suspect there is going to be more to his subject than meets the eye so all will be revealed on the day. I can't wait!

I look forward to seeing you all on Friday 5th June, and I hope you didn't mind me giving a plug to the Creative Writing group. The fact that I help to run this group is not entirely coincidental.

Meanwhile

Take care

Roger

# Visit to Durham Botanic Gardens

Liz Milbourn and Helen Eustace

May's joint Garden Group and Natural History Group visit to the Durham Botanic Gardens was a great success. The weather stayed fine, the gardens were lovely, the café food was good, and we had enough people wanting to go for us to travel in comfort by coach.



Photo  
Acknowledgements;  
Paul Eustace, Margaret  
Boddy and Irene Archer

## Family History: Can You Help?

Jacky Armstrong

My father Douglas Allan Davenport was born in Wolverhampton on 9th October 1918. He enlisted in the 2/6th South Staffordshire Regiment on the 26th April 1939, Rank Private, Army Number 4916430.

I don't know much about his early days in the army but I do recall him talking about Square Bashing and Aldershot. He would never eat cheese later in the day as he said it gave him nightmares of square bashing and Aldershot!

At some stage he was transferred to REME and trained as an Armourer. This involved him working with munitions and cleaning and repairing guns. He was posted to the Heugh Battery in Hartlepool. This is the site of the only First World War Battlefield when the first civilian was killed in enemy action on 16th December 1914. The Heugh Battery is now an historic site with a small museum concentrating on WW1, with a lovely cafe called Poppies. It is worth a visit. Further details are available on its website.



Stranton Church

While stationed at the Heugh Battery my father met my mother, no doubt on leave visiting West Hartlepool (Hartlepool and West Hartlepool were two separate towns then). The date and whereabouts I don't know. Maybe it was in Wesley Chapel in the centre of West which, in its basement, it had facilities for serving personnel to meet and socialise during WW2. I know it won't have been at a dance as my father didn't and wouldn't dance! Their meeting and courting resulted in his marriage to Florence Marguerite Wood (known as Bett) on 31 March 1942 at Stranton Church in West Hartlepool.

My father's responsibilities were to repair guns and transport Tynemouth. I know at one time he was billeted in Kirkleatham and he used to climb and cross the Transporter Bridge to visit my mother. Where he was billeted in Hartlepool I do not know. All the records for WW2 were quickly moved from the Heugh to the War Department at the end of the war. I can recall my father taking my brother and myself to Radcliffe Terrace, opposite the War Memorial and telling us that's where he cleaned and repaired guns.

He used to drive munitions in lorries between the sites. When he popped in to see my mother in Tristram Avenue in West Hartlepool, my grandfather used to make sure he parked the lorry next to a circle of trees (still there) near Sheridan Grove in case the lorry 'Went up'.

I was born in Tristram Avenue in August 1943. At some time later my father was transferred to Warrenpoint in Ireland. He used to say no wonder Ireland was green as it rained all the time he was there!

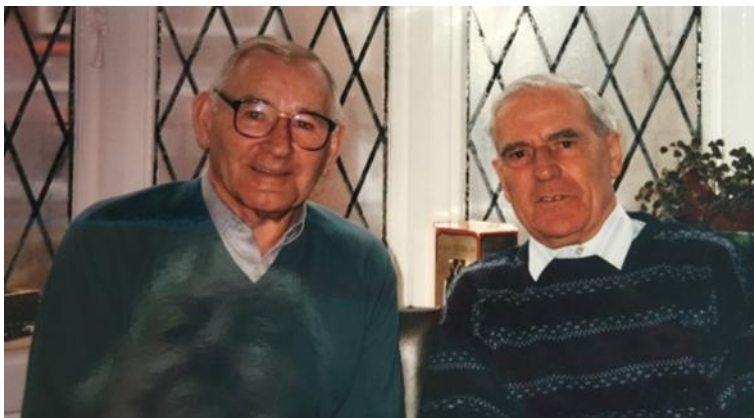
He was posted to Germany towards the end of the war, ending his service and being demobbed as a Sergeant, in Lubeck in Germany in January 1946 with the Control Commission for Germany. His testimonial says

'..... he has supervised the maintenance and repair of arms of nearly one thousand men ..... (he) is honest and industrious, with a pleasant manner which has largely contributed to obtaining the best service from his subordination. He is trustworthy and reliable.. . Military Character - exemplary.'

Although I have all my father's war records, I would really like to find out more about where he was billeted in Hartlepool. It appears that the Heugh Battery was an important site. Someone I know who has been helping with my search told me

'Recent excavation work at Heugh highlighted the need for more technically skilled men during WW2, some serious power cables were discovered beneath the soil - but when you look at the diagrams and maps, the area was full of high-powered new technology for anti-aircraft use. Large searchlights, communications, range finding equipment, plotting ... these would have all needed REME on hand due to the complexity of these new technologies. Increased numbers of men, all armed, armourers were needed.'

I have visited the Heugh Battery many times. I always feel close to my father when I go down into the armoury stores area. I know he would have been up and down those steps thousands of times in all weathers



My father on the left and the mystery man on the right

Not long before my parents Golden Wedding Anniversary they were out together when a chap went up to my father and said 'Hello Snowy'. This was his nickname during the war as he had very blond hair. It appears that this chap had served at the Heugh with him. I invited him and his wife, as a surprise, to my parents Golden Wedding

Anniversary celebrations. The photograph was taken in March 1992.

This is where you might be able to help. I have forgotten the mystery man's name, but his family or friends might recognise him. At the time he was living possibly in the Rift House area of Hartlepool (West). If you recognise him, maybe I can add more to my family memories and records.

African Nature Watch  
Martin Green



Where is  
Everyone?



I told him I'd have  
the last laugh!



Has anyone seen Rod Hull  
and Emu?

All Photos © Martin Green

# What Little I Know About Gardening.

Barry Liddle



u3a Coffee Morning in my Garden

When I joined the u3a 12 or 13 years ago I was a keen but not very skilled gardener. At one of the monthly general meetings the Interest Group Co-ordinator asked for ideas for new interest groups, so I suggested a gardening group. It was meant as a suggestion, not an offer to run it. However, after some gentle arm twisting, I found myself

setting up a Gardening Group which ran successfully for several years. I soon realised that I didn't need to be an expert gardener to run the group- all I had to do was put together a programme of garden talks and visits and let the real garden experts impart their knowledge. I learnt a lot from these real gardeners and from my friends in the Gardening Group. I also learned from the many mistakes in tending my own garden. So, from the simple to the more complex, these are some of the things I have learned:

1. When mowing the lawn, it is better to keep to a weekly schedule rather than wait for the perfect conditions. The key is 'little and often' as it promotes healthy growth and suppresses weeds.
2. For many years I used an electric lawn mower with an extension cable. One day I had an epiphany. I realised I spent more time moving the cable than I did cutting the grass. So, I invested in a cordless battery mower and cut the mowing time by half.
3. I used to water my plants with a watering can, but that was very time consuming with many trips between the kitchen sink and the garden. So, I had an external cold-water tap installed and bought a hosepipe and considerably cut both watering time and physical effort.
4. Hanging baskets need watering every day in peak summer. I used to place a six-inch disc of plastic cut from a plastic bag in the basket before filling with compost in order to boost water retention.
5. At one time I used to plant daffodils and tulips in the borders of my garden, but I became tired of cutting into the bulbs when hoeing and digging, so I switched to only growing bulbs in pots.
6. One year I had a problem called 'Daffodil Blindness'. That is when the foliage comes up but without any flowers. 'Blindness' can be caused by several factors but in my case, I was pretty sure it was because over time all the nutrients in the compost had been exhausted. I hadn't applied enough replacement plant food.

7. As demonstrated, plants need feed as well as water, especially those in pots. However, I struggled to feed the plants regularly as I often failed to remember when I last applied the feed. Then one day I was listening to GQT on Radio4 and one of the garden experts suggested listeners adopt 'Feed Friday' – a system I have tried to adopt ever since.
8. There are weeds and then there are pernicious weeds – the one I have been battling for years is Ground Elder. First introduced to this country by the Romans as a culinary herb. Ground Elder has extensive white spaghetti like roots that spread throughout the soil. They are difficult to remove completely because if only a tiny piece of the root remains in the soil it will soon regenerate. Also, the roots tend to get entangled around the roots of perennials – so even if you remove the roots from open soil they will regenerate again from the base of perennials.
9. One of the members of my Gardening Group had a similar battle with Ground Elder and her radical solution was to stop growing plants directly in the soil. She covered the whole back garden in a black damp proof membrane, then grew all her plants in pots using commercial weed free compost.
10. Another example of a pernicious weed – is Japanese Knotweed. Thankfully I've never has a problem with that but when I was working in economic development in Birmingham, I visited a brownfield site where the developer had spent one million pounds to completely eradicate this weed before any construction was possible. Any knotweed left in the soil would have eventually caused severe structural damage to new buildings.
11. You can never have enough compost. The key to making good compost is to balance the green materials (e.g. grass cuttings) with brown materials (eg twigs, woody pruning's etc). Too many grass cuttings and the compost will become slimy. I countered this by adding shredded newspaper and/or paper from my office paper shedding machine. On the other hand, if the compost becomes too dry add water. Every few weeks use a fork to turn it over and aerate the compost and finally keep the lid on the compost bin at all times. After a few months you should have good home-made compost.
12. I used to grow quite a lot of plants in pots. I would half fill the pot with my home-made compost and then top- up with commercial compost. The reason for this is that my home-made compost tended to retain seeds from weeds (because the temperature of the compost rarely got high enough to kill them all off) so the commercial compost top layer acted as a mulch to suppress any weeds. I don't know if this approach can be scientifically proved– all I know is that I have had good results with it and it has the additional benefit of making the costly bought compost spread further.
13. I have never had the benefit of a permanent greenhouse but if you have one I'd like to pass on a tip given to me by an old gardener friend. If you don't have any heating,

one way to keep frost away in winter is to place a candle on the floor of the greenhouse and cover it with a large terracotta pot which then heats-up just enough to take the edge off the frosty air.

14. I used to use plastic 4 tier mini greenhouses that you can buy from garden centres



u3a plant sale, all grown in my two 4 tier mini greenhouses

for growing on my seedlings and plug plants. These structures are unstable and are prone to blowing over on windy days, So I used to locate them in a sheltered but sunny

position next to a wall and anchor them by placing a couple of building bricks on the bottom tier.

15. I enjoyed growing plants from seed. However, I always had problems growing seedlings from very small seeds like petunias -whose seeds are almost like dust. The problem is called 'Damping Off' which causes young seedlings to collapse and die often with withered stems or a covered in a white furry growth. Damping off occurs through a combination of overwatering and poor ventilation. In my case windows closed with central heating on in the house created the perfect conditions for damping off. So, for plants with very small seeds like Petunias, I always bought plug plants.
16. One of the keys to successful gardening is to plant the right plant in the right place. For example, Hosta's like shade or semi-shade, so they are in my north facing back garden whilst Hydrangeas like morning sun and some afternoon shade and are perfectly suited to my front garden. Most plant labels give guidelines, if in doubt look it up in a book or the internet.
17. For some reason, which is difficult to explain, but is nevertheless true - plants are better grouped in odd numbers for example 3,5, & 7 rather than 2,4, & 6.
18. I always plant hardy herbs in pots near the kitchen - mint, rosemary and sage. Basil needs a good deal of sunshine so I grow it on a south facing sunny windowsill.
19. Every gardener has a favourite plant. For me it is Sweet Peas. They are easy to grow from seed (3 or 5) to a small pot. Remember to pinch out growing tip when 2 or 3 true leaves have developed for a bushier plant. If you want flowers with long stems, then plant against individual bamboo canes. At one time I used to plant up to 100 Sweet Peas. I would take bunches of them to u3a monthly meetings as

additional raffle prizes. When it comes to choice of seeds, Spencer Mixed Sweet Peas are inexpensive, reliable and produce an abundance of colourful flowers. For several years I would also buy a couple of packets of heritage/premium sweat pea seeds to grow alongside the Spencer Mixed. But on the whole these expensive seeds were disappointing and germination rates were sometimes surprisingly low.



Sweet peas in my garden

After a few years I stopped buying seeds altogether. I used to stop deadheading some of the plants at the end of summer and let the pods dry and go papery brown. I then took the seeds out of the pods and placed them on sheets of kitchen paper to dry for a few days. Then I would fill individual envelopes with about 30 seeds. Sweet peas are hungry and thirsty plants so grow them in well dug soil

with added fertilizer and water regularly.

20. You might have noticed that much of this article focuses on things I used to do in the garden. The reason for this is that about 4 years ago the osteo-arthritis in my legs became troublesome and that made gardening very difficult. I was unable to garden as I used to, and so I lost interest and the garden rapidly became a wilderness. However, I have recently had a change of heart and revived my interest in gardening by focusing on what I can do and not on what I can't do. So once again I am enjoying gardening and I am doing so by finding creative ways to overcome the tasks I find difficult. Lastly, can I just say what a wonderful job Liz Milbourn and Helen Eustace are doing in leading the current Gardening Group.



Some members of the former Gardening Group on a visit to Crook Hall Gardens in Durham

## Poetry Corner

### Episode in Garden (It's a Bees Life)

bright; breezy  
early doors  
sparrows arrive  
intrepid start feeding  
others more cautious  
numbers increase  
a brace  
of goldfinches appear  
messy eaters  
surely in cahoots  
with feral pigeons  
sparrows squabbling  
disputing pecking order  
settle down  
humans pass by  
sparrows scatter  
buff-tailed bumblebee  
buzzes in  
under the radar  
oblivious to all  
fully focussed on  
gathering nectar, pollen  
travelling far from home  
using honed navigational skills  
before returning  
back to base heavily laden  
it's a bumblebee's life  
day by day  
a whole lifetime  
working for the hive  
for the communal good  
for the survival  
of the species  
where would we be  
without them?

**Roger Say**

## Bee Watching

One of our u3a members, who wishes to remain anonymous, is an Entomophile - a person who loves insects, particularly those commonly found inside her home or garden. This month the focus is on Bees. All photographs © MEM



Bee on my knee



Two bags full

## Interest Group Meetings: Dates for Your Diary

Helen Eustace

### **May 26<sup>th</sup>, Tuesday Book Club**

Newcastle Building Society 2pm until 3.30pm. In May we will be reading Case Studies – Kate Atkinson. For further information contact Mary Waldmeyer.

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

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 5<sup>th</sup>, General Meeting and AGM.**

For those of you who don't like quizzes and bingo at the general meetings then you will be pleased to know that we are not having either of these this time. We will be having a 'fuddle' though, so you are invited to bring along finger foods for everyone to share. Hopefully the group leaders will be on hand to show you exactly what they are doing in their groups, and the garden group will be having a plant sale, so please bring along your pennies! If anyone has any plants that they would like to donate then please contact Helen Eustace or Liz Milbourn

### **June 9<sup>th</sup>, Poetry Group**

People's Centre between 2pm and 4pm. In June our topic will be 'The Sea ! the Sea !

### **June 10<sup>th</sup>, Art Appreciation**

A trip to the biscuit factory in Newcastle. This art gallery contains contemporary art and crafts and has a shop. The restaurant is on the top floor with views over Newcastle.

We will go by bus and will leave from the Golden Lion car park at 10.00am and leave the gallery at 2pm. The cost of the bus is £17. Entry to the gallery is free.

### **June 11<sup>th</sup>, Archaeology and History**

Peoples Centre 10.30am for 11.00am start. Gordon Henderson makes a return visit to talk on the Roman Fort at Binchester (Vinovia to the Romans) near Bishop Auckland.

He will illustrate his talk with his archaeological finds and tell the story of the Fort and the latest discoveries on the history of the Romans on the site.

**June 17<sup>th</sup>, Afternoon Tea** 1.30pm at the Indoor Bowl's Club. There will be a selection of sandwiches, cakes, scones etc with sausage roll and pie for those that want it.

The venue can cater for vegans, vegetarians, gluten free (but not coeliacs). If you are interested can you please ensure that Jacky Armstrong has your nonrefundable deposit by the end of May. This afternoon tea had been recommended so why not give it a go.

For further details please contact Jacky Armstrong.

**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. Transport cost by minibus is £13. Entry to the gardens will be £10

**June 23<sup>rd</sup>. Tuesday Book Club**

We will be reading 'A dying fall' – Ellie Griffiths. For further information contact Mary Waldmeyer

**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. Transport cost by minibus is £15.00. Entry to the deer park and walled gardens will be approximately £10. If you would like to go into the castle then there will be a further cost for that.

**July 8<sup>th</sup>, Art Appreciation**

Rachel from the glass forge in Eaglescliffe will give a talk about her fused glass work. She will bring finished items to sell such as coasters, candle holders, pictures, bowls and lanterns. You can look up her work before her talk to see what sort of thing she does. This talk will take place at the Peoples Centre at 10.30am. The room is available from 10.00am

**July 9<sup>th</sup>, Archaeology and History**

An away day via train and Metro for a walk around an area of Tyneside we have not visited with our friend Keiran-Ann. A new venue to be walked around.

**July 14<sup>th</sup>, Poetry Group**

People's Centre between 2pm and 4pm. In July we shall be reading poems from the American Poet Mary Oliver who found inspiration from the natural world.

**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.

**August 12<sup>th</sup>, Joint visit between the Garden Group and Art Appreciation**

A trip to Kiplin Hall and Gardens in North Yorkshire. Costs to follow. If you would like to attend please speak to Helen Eustace, Liz Milbourn, Irene Archer or Andrea Reid

**September 13<sup>th</sup>, Sunday, Art Appreciation**

Bus Trip to Staithes Art Festival. Details to follow. For further information contact Irene Archer or Andrea Reid.

**December 12<sup>th</sup>, Garden Group and open to all.**

The garden group are going on the Lees Coach trip to the Alnwick Garden Winter Light Trail. A late afternoon excursion to the Alnwick Gardens. Not only can you see the lights in the Alnwick Garden but also see the lights in Lilidorei. It will cost approximately £35 and this will include both attractions. Pick up will be at Hartlepool Transport Interchange (next door to the railway station). For further information contact Helen Eustace or Liz Milbourn.

## Letters to the Editor

**Dear Barry.**

Re: Roger Say's *Stroke of Good Fortune* article in last month's Newsletter...I loved the punchline, didn't see it coming at all.

I agree with Roger that one should not start a sentence with "And", but there are times when one can legitimately start a sentence with "But":

But for the safety net, the fall from the high wire would have killed him.

Here, "But" introduces a reason why something didn't happen.

**Phil Jefferies**

Honorary Life Member of the Apostrophe Appreciation Society

**Dear Barry**

Re; your piece about May as a name in the Miscellaneous section of last month's Newsletter. I used to have a great Aunt called May Day. if it was now, I could have called her SOS for short! But then us children didn't dare speak to our older relatives in such a familiar fashion, how times have changed!

Regards

**Liz Milbourn**

### Risqué Limerick

There was a young lady from Neasham  
Who liked to hang out in a threesome  
One girl and one boy  
They gave her much joy  
I just wish that she would give me some

Phil Jefferies

### Royal Limerick

A peasant from Barnard Castle  
Was expert at solving hassle  
The Queen at that time  
Said "I'll make you mine"  
And so he became her vassal

Phil Jefferies

## Concert Report from the Sunderland Fire Station. The Royal Northern Sinfonia playing Dvořák and Mozart Serenades

The venue for our visit was the old Sunderland Fire Station, an Edwardian building which closed in 1992 but has now been converted into an exciting concert venue in the heart of Sunderland and whilst it lacks in one sense the frills of some concert venues it is a much lauded venue housing a state-of-the art Auditorium and a popular bar and Engine Room Bistro.

There was certainly a 'buzz' about the place when a group from our u3a visited on Sunday 10th May to listen to an ensemble from the internationally renowned Royal Northern Sinfonia Orchestra playing to a packed and enthusiastic audience.

We listened to two serenades, this is a genre that is quite frivolous and light-hearted affair and often referred to as "dinner music," to be performed at parties and other social events.

First, Dvořák – Serenade for Winds, influenced in part by Mozart's Wind Serenade but is very much unlike this source of influence. Whilst reserving the classical style this music is wholly Czech in character reflecting the folk music of his native Bohemia.

Second, Mozart – Wind Serenade, is arguably among that composer's most beloved works and is, without question, one of the wind band genre's greatest masterpieces.

For those not familiar with classical music, 'wind music' generally refers to any music played by wind instruments and produced via the breath of the player. However, both serenades we listened to include a double base (they growled delightfully in the background).

**Wendy Borthwick.**

## **Progress Report on the Gardening Group Programme**

### **Tudor Croft, Guisborough – Saturday 20th June**

N.B. The list for this trip is full and we have a waiting list.

### **Raby Castle, Gardens and Deer Park, Staindrop – Tuesday 7th July**

We now have more than enough people for a minibus and are looking to hire a coach instead. We only need a few more people to keep the fare at approximately £15, so if anyone would still like to go to Raby Castle, please contact either Helen or myself as soon as possible.

Even if you have visited before, it is still well worth another trip. The stunning five-acre gardens have recently been remodelled and Raby Castle is one of the most impressive intact castles in the North of England — well worth visiting even if wandering around gardens is not really your thing.

- Combined concession admission: £22
- Gardens and Deer Park only: £14

### **Kiplin Hall and Gardens – Wednesday 12th August**

- Admission £11.50

This will be a combined visit with the Art Appreciation Group. The minibus fare will be approximately £17.50.

Please let us know if you would like to go on this trip. We will collect the minibus fare at a later date.

### **Alnwick Garden Winter Light Trail – Saturday 12th December**

The Garden Group will be joining the Lees Coaches trip to the Alnwick Garden Winter Light Trail — a late afternoon and evening excursion to The Alnwick Garden.

As well as enjoying the spectacular illuminations in the gardens, there will also be an opportunity to see the lights at Lilidorei.

The cost will be approximately £35, including entry to both attractions. Pick-up Hartlepool Once again, please let us know if you would like to go on this trip.

### **Plant Sale at u3a General Meeting 5<sup>th</sup> June**

Thank you for supporting our Garden Group trips. The next u3a meeting is on June 5th. and the Garden Group will be selling plants to raise funds for the group. Please come along and support us — and if you have any spare plants looking for a new home, we'd be very grateful for donations.

**Liz Milbourn and Helen Eustace**



## Pondering Life's Little Choices

**Paul Eustace**

**Hartlepool u3a Vice-Chair  
& Minutes Secretary**

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

Yoghurt, granola, fruit and fresh orange juice - occasionally a bacon butty when I'm feeling naughty.

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

Anywhere with mountains. UK, Europe or further afield - If it goes uphill, I'm Interested.

### **Dog or Cat?**

Dogs - Love other peoples, but wouldn't have one myself though.

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

Boxing Day ... just. Now the kids are older it's the calmer option, but Christmas Day may reclaim the crown if grandchildren ever appear.

### **Wine or Beer?**

A Marlborough Sauvignon Blanc or French Pouilly-Fume.

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

The Beatles - Apparently, I was named after one!

### **Meat or Lentils?**

Lentils are a firm no, but prefer fish to meat if there's a choice.

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

Star Trek - Live Long and Prosper!

### **Cappuccino or Espresso?**

Cappuccino - Despite some Italian friends insisting its only acceptable before 11:00 am.

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

Either - Love a night out with family and friends, but equally happy solving fictional TV murders on the sofa.

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

Don't watch either - But as a boy from the North West I would be contractually obligated to pick Corrie.

### **Football or Rugby?**

Football through and through, but the 6 Nations does tempt me to the dark side.

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

Neither. Ready salted - classic, understated, dependable.

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

Absolutely anything else!

**Garlic or No Garlic.**

Garlic - Life's too short for bland food.

**Pudding or Cheese & Biscuits?**

Pudding when eating out - sweet tooth. At home a mature Cheddar, Brie or Stilton with wine is practically a hobby.

**Cash or Card**

Card - Barely remember what cash looks like nowadays.

**Whisky or Gin & Tonic?**

Neither - But a Disaronno or two rounds the evening off nicely.

**Night Owl or Lark?**

Night Owl - Midnight is more of a suggestion than a bedtime.

**White or Brown Bread?**

Freshly baked seeded brown.

**The Flintstones or Noggin the Nog**

I've always been a 'Yabba-Dabba-Doo' man.

**Ketchup or Brown Sauce?**

Brown - It's the only correct answer for a bacon butty.

**Morris Minor or Ford Anglia**

Neither - As a mountain walker, I've always fancied a classic Land Rover Defender. Something that looks at mud and laughs.

**Tripe & Onions or Liver & Onions**

I'd eat snails in garlic or frog's legs before either of those.

**Darts or Snooker**

Snooker or more accurately pool - I'm a ball and stick man at heart.

**Sherry or Cocktail.**

Cocktails - Amaretto Sour or Long Island Iced Tea.

**Social Media or No Social Media**

Increasingly social media - It's the only way to keep track of things nowadays.

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

Beans on Toast - but they have to be Heinz.

**Mods or Rockers?**

Never owned a leather jacket or a motorbike, but I did have a green 'fishtail' Parker - So, a Mod by default!

**Crossword Puzzles or Sudoku?**

Sudoku - Numbers behave themselves more than words do.

**Indian Takeaway or Chinese Takeaway?**

Indian - Love a curry but the feeling isn't always mutual.

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

Strictly, but only the final - I like my sequins in moderation.

**Salad Cream or Mayonnaise?**

Mayonnaise - Salad Cream is a bit too vinegary for my liking.

**Regular Exercise or No Exercise?**

Irregular - Love walking in the mountains, just don't get out often enough to pretend it's a routine.

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

I'm a committed member of the half full society.

## Miscellaneous

Barry Liddle

### My Word of the Month

#### Toodle-oo

When did you last hear someone say ‘Well, I must be going – Toodle-oo’. It’s somewhat dated now but was once more commonly used in a light-hearted or comical manner. In the P.G. Woodhouse novels Bertie Wooster often said Toodle-oo or some variation of it. So, at the end of the next U3A monthly meeting, who is going to be the first to wish me Toodle-oo?

#### Who Am I?

1. I was born on 17 June 1945 in Lambeth, London.
2. I was very active in Local Government and as an MP in the House of Commons.
3. I was a controversial champion of left-wing causes.
4. I was a gifted communicator and self-publicist.
5. I had a lifelong fascination with reptiles and amphibians.

Answer on Page 22

#### Anniversary of Royal Visit to Hartlepool

109 years ago this month, on 14<sup>th</sup> June 1917, King George V and Queen Mary visited Hartlepool as part of a morale boosting tour during the First World War. They inspected the William Gray Shipyard and Richardsons Westgarth – a company known locally as ‘Richies’.

#### Selected Anniversaries in June 2026

- **82 years ago**, on 6<sup>th</sup> June 1944, the D-Day Landings took place.
- **100 years ago**, on 1<sup>st</sup> June 1926, Marilyn Monroe was born.
- **811 years ago**, on the 15 June 1215, the signing of the Magna Carta.
- **1233 years ago**, on 8<sup>th</sup> June 793 the first Viking attack on Lindisfarne.

#### Jobs That No Longer Exist

- ❖ Camera Film Developers
- ❖ Copy Typist
- ❖ Bus Conductor (Clippie)
- ❖ Encyclopaedia Salesman
- ❖ Petrol Pump Attendant

# Food Glorious Food Quiz

Compiled by Barry Liddle

## Q1 What are the 3 basic ingredients of a Prawn Cocktail?

- a) A Martini /Vodka mix, garnished with 2 prawns on a cocktail stick.
- b) Prawns, crisp shredded lettuce and Marie-Rose Sauce.
- c) Prawns, crisp shredded lettuce and Mayonnaise.

## Q2 Why are sausages commonly known as 'Bangers'?

- a) Sausage cases split when fried causing them to go bang.
- b) During war time, sausages had a high-water content and when fried, would go bang.
- c) The cheap filler used in sausages expands under heat and the sausage goes bang

## Q3 All the following are nuts, except one which is a seed. Which is the odd one out?

- a) Almonds
- b) Cashews
- c) Pecans
- d) Pistachios

## Q4 What is Welsh Rarebit?

- a) Baby leeks cooked in a white sauce, served on toast.
- b) Welsh rabbits cooked with potatoes and leeks in beer.
- c) A hot cheese sauce, including ale or Worcestershire sauce on toast.

## Q5 What does Celeriac taste like?

- a) A mild earthy cabbage like flavour.
- b) A mild, earthy celery flavour.
- c) A mild earthy onion flavour.

## Q6 Marmite is a byproduct of which British Industry?

- a) Baking
- b) Brewing
- c) Butchery

## Q7 What is Banoffee Pie?

- a) A pie made from bananas, cream and toffee, typically on a biscuit base.
- b) A pie made from bananas, custard and caramel, typically on a biscuit base
- c) A Pie made from lemon custard, topped with sliced bananas on a biscuit base.

## Q8 Consommé is best described as:

- a) A soup made from beef simmered for a long time then strained
- b) A clear soup made from stock or broth that has been clarified
- c) A clear soup made from beef or chicken bones

**Q9 What is a Fat Rascal?**

- a) A traditional Lancashire Tea Cake
- b) A traditional Yorkshire Tea Cake
- c) A traditional Scottish Scone

**Q10 Which of these foods is not made from potatoes?**

- a) Hash Browns
- b) Gnocchi
- c) Polenta

**Q11 What cake is traditionally eaten on Easter Sunday to celebrate the end of Lent?**

- a) Battenberg
- b) Parkin
- c) Simnel

**Q12 What are the main ingredients of Glamorgan Sausages?**

- a) Caerphilly Cheese, breadcrumbs and leeks
- b) Laverbread, breadcrumbs and leeks
- c) Glamorgan pork, breadcrumbs and leeks

**Q13 How would you best describe a Barnsley Chop?**

- a) A thick-cut double lamb loin chop
- b) A large lamb chop from hefted sheep near Barnsley
- c) A slow cooked extra-large mutton chop

**Q14 You select a Baklava for dessert. What would you be expecting?**

- a) Coffee flavoured sponge cake with cream
- b) Cream mixed with nuts and honey or sugar syrup
- c) Crispy layers of filo pastry with honey or sugar syrup and nuts

**Q15 What do Gazpacho and Vichyssoise have in common?**

- a) They are both Velouté type soups
- b) They are both cream soups.
- c) They are cold soups

**Q16 Greek Salad. What are the main ingredients?**

- a) Tomatoes, cucumber, red onion, feta cheese, olives and olive oil dressing.
- b) Tomatoes, red peppers, red onion, feta cheese, capers and olive oil dressing.
- c) Tomatoes, cucumber, shallots, halloumi cheese, olives and olive oil dressing.

**Q17 In a fine -dining restaurant what is an amuse-bouche?**

- a) An amusing appetiser eaten with a small spoon
- b) A small complimentary bite sized appetiser
- c) One of several small bite sized appetisers available on the a la- carte menu.

**Q18 What do Indian Roti, Middle Eastern Pita, Mexican Tortillas and Italian Focaccia have in common?**

- a) They are all types of flatbreads.
- b) They are all used for dips/scooping.
- c) They all breads made with yeast.

**Q19 If you ordered Carbonara in an Italian restaurant, what would you receive?**

- a) Spaghetti with a sauce of butter, Parmesan cheese and cream.
- b) Spaghetti with a sauce of pancetta, eggs, Pecorino cheese and black pepper.
- c) Spaghetti with a sauce of tomatoes, garlic, herbs and olive oil.

**Q20 What are the main ingredients of a Manchester Tart?**

- a) A shortcrust pastry base, a layer of lemon curd and a thick layer of set custard.
- b) A shortcrust pastry base, a layer of raspberry jam and a thick layer of set custard.
- c) jam and a thick set custard sandwiched between two discs of shortcrust pastry.

**Answers on Page 22**

**Down Memory Lane**



**Members of the History Group on a guided walking tour of Greatham in 2017**

# 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 Livingstone

**Quiz Answers** **Q1** b) Prawns, crisp shredded lettuce and Marie-Rose Sauce; **Q2** b) During war time, sausages had a high-water content and when fried, would go bang. **Q3** b) Cashews; **Q4** c) A hot cheese sauce, including ale or Worcestershire sauce on toast; **Q5** b) A mild, earthy celery flavour; **Q6** b) Brewing; **Q7** a) A pie made from bananas, cream and toffee, typically on a biscuit base; **Q8** b) A clear soup made from stock or broth that has been clarified; **Q9** b) A traditional Yorkshire Tea Cake; **Q10** c) Polenta; **Q11** c) Simnel; **Q12** a) Caerphilly Cheese, breadcrumbs and leeks; **Q13** a) A thick-cut double lamb loin chop; **Q14** c) Crispy layers of filo pastry with honey or sugar syrup and nuts; **Q15** c) They are cold soups; **Q16** a) Tomatoes, cucumber, red onion, feta cheese, olives and olive oil dressing; **Q17** b) A small complimentary bite sized appetiser; **Q18** a) They are all types of flatbreads; **Q19** b) Spaghetti with a sauce of pancetta, eggs, Pecorino cheese and black pepper. **Q20** b) A shortcrust pastry base, a layer of raspberry jam and a thick layer of set custard.

## 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 June 2026.

**Barry Liddle, Newsletter Editor**