



## Members Newsletter July 2022

### A Message from the Chair

Welcome everyone to our summer newsletter. Yes, it's July so it must be summertime, even though it's cold, wet, and windy some days! I must ask you - **please** consider joining the committee as, just like any organisation, Alnwick u3a functions better with a full team. At the AGM in October, four committee members will be standing down, so new people are needed to help keep the show on the road. Why not become involved in this great international network?

**Kathy Platt**

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## Independence Day Photos

This edition's publication date is 4<sup>th</sup> July, so I thought I would use some of my photos to celebrate US Independence Day.

Trevor Robinson (Editor)



Monument Valley,  
Utah



New Orleans



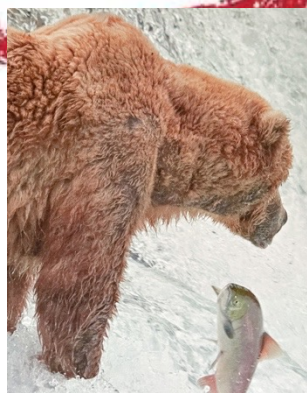
Statue of Liberty



Elvis Presley's Grave



World Trade Centre



Brown Bear in Alaska

## May Monthly Meeting – 19<sup>th</sup> May 2022

*"The History of Ordnance Survey":* Presented by Bill Bland

Bill Brand gave us a fascinating insight into his lifetime passion of Ordnance Survey Maps at the May Monthly Meeting.

Bill, who was originally from Yorkshire, described how as a child his older brother received an ordnance survey map for Christmas which was the start of his interest. It even influenced his chosen career as a Civil Engineer.



The first map he bought as a civil engineer in the 1960s cost 5/6d, which was at that time the equivalent cost of three pints of beer. Today ordnance survey maps can be downloaded online for a yearly fee.

The roots of Ordnance Survey go back to 1747, when King George II commissioned a military survey of the Scottish highlands following the Jacobite rebellion of 1745. William Roy was the engineer responsible for this pioneering work, not an easy task over the rough terrain, taking 40 years to complete.

The first map of Scotland was not terribly accurate, Loch Lomond was 20 miles away from where it should have been!

As the land survey was used for taxation purposes many people were reluctant to allow access to their land until an act of parliament was passed.

## May Monthly Meeting – contd

By 1791, a new Ramsden theodolite was purchased, and mapping became more accurate. To triangulate distances the theodolite needed to be hauled up to a high point which necessitated the survey team camping out on mountain tops in all weathers.

In later years theodolites became more portable and chains were used for triangular measurements. A chain is a unit of length equal to 22 yards and is subdivided into 4 rods, the chains being better than tape for measuring angles as they did not blow about in windy weather.

An electronic distance measure which combines angle measurement has replaced the traditional theodolite, distance can now be measured easily with greater accuracy regardless of terrain.

In 1801 the first ordnance survey map was produced which cost 3 guineas and sold out immediately. After WWI the ordnance survey decided that their maps were not commercial enough and in 1920 employed two salesmen to travel around promoting the maps as good value for money.

Nowadays OS maps are increasingly more popular with walkers and map collectors alike.

Maureen Sayers

## June Monthly Meeting – 16<sup>th</sup> June 2022

*"Hadrian and his Wall"*: Presented by Andy Griffin

This was another one of Andy's excellent presentations, giving a lot of background about Hadrian as well as information about the Wall itself.

Hadrian was born on 24 January 76, in the Roman province of Hispania Baetic; he was named Publius Aelius Hadrianus. His father was Publius Aelius Hadrianus Afer, a senator of praetorian rank, born and raised in Italica (in southern Spain) but paternally linked, through many generations over several centuries, to a family from Hadria, an ancient town in Picenum, on the east coast of the Italian peninsula.

Hadrian's most significant family connection was to Trajan, his father's first cousin, who was also of senatorial stock, and had been born and raised in Italica.

Hadrian's first official post in Rome was as a member of the decemviri stlitibus judicandis, a civil court, one among many vigintivirate offices (a council of 20 men) at the lowest level of the cursus honorum ("course of honours") that could lead to higher office and a senatorial career. He then served as a military tribune, first with the Legio II Adiutrix in 95, then with the Legio V Macedonica.

During Hadrian's second stint as tribune, the frail and aged reigning emperor Nerva adopted Trajan as his heir. When Nerva died in 98, Hadrian is said to have hastened to Trajan, to inform him ahead of the official envoy sent by the governor, Hadrian's brother-in-law and rival Lucius Julius Ursus Servianus.

In 101, Hadrian was back in Rome; he was elected quaestor, then quaestor imperatoris Traiani, liaison officer between Emperor and the assembled Senate, to whom he read the Emperor's communiqués and speeches, which he possibly composed on the emperor's behalf.

## June Monthly Meeting – contd

In his role as imperial ghostwriter, Hadrian took the place of the recently deceased Licinius Sura, Trajan's all-powerful friend and kingmaker. His next post was as *ab actis senatus*, keeping the Senate's records. During the First Dacian War, in Northern Macedonia, Hadrian took the field as a member of Trajan's personal entourage, but was excused from his military post to take office in Rome as tribune of the plebs, in 105. After the war, he was probably elected praetor.

During the Second Dacian War, Hadrian was in Trajan's personal service again, but was released to serve as legate of Legio I Minervia, then as governor of Lower Pannonia in 107, tasked with "holding back the Sarmatians".

Now in his mid-thirties, Hadrian travelled to Greece; he was granted Athenian citizenship and was appointed eponymous archon of Athens for a brief time (in 112). The Athenians awarded him a statue with an inscription in the Theatre of Dionysus offering a detailed account of his *cursus honorum* thus far.

When the governor of Syria was sent to deal with renewed troubles in Dacia, Hadrian was appointed his replacement, with independent command. Trajan became seriously ill, and sailed to Rome, while Hadrian remained in Syria, *de facto* general commander of the Eastern Roman army.

Hadrian was married in 100 CE to Vibia Sabina, a cousin of the Emperor Trajan. Hadrian became a right-hand man to Trajan. Trajan's wife, Plotina, became very close to Hadrian, and they shared the same views about the Empire's future. On Trajan's deathbed, in 117 CE, Plotina persuaded him to adopt Hadrian as his successor. They did not have children, and he needed an heir.

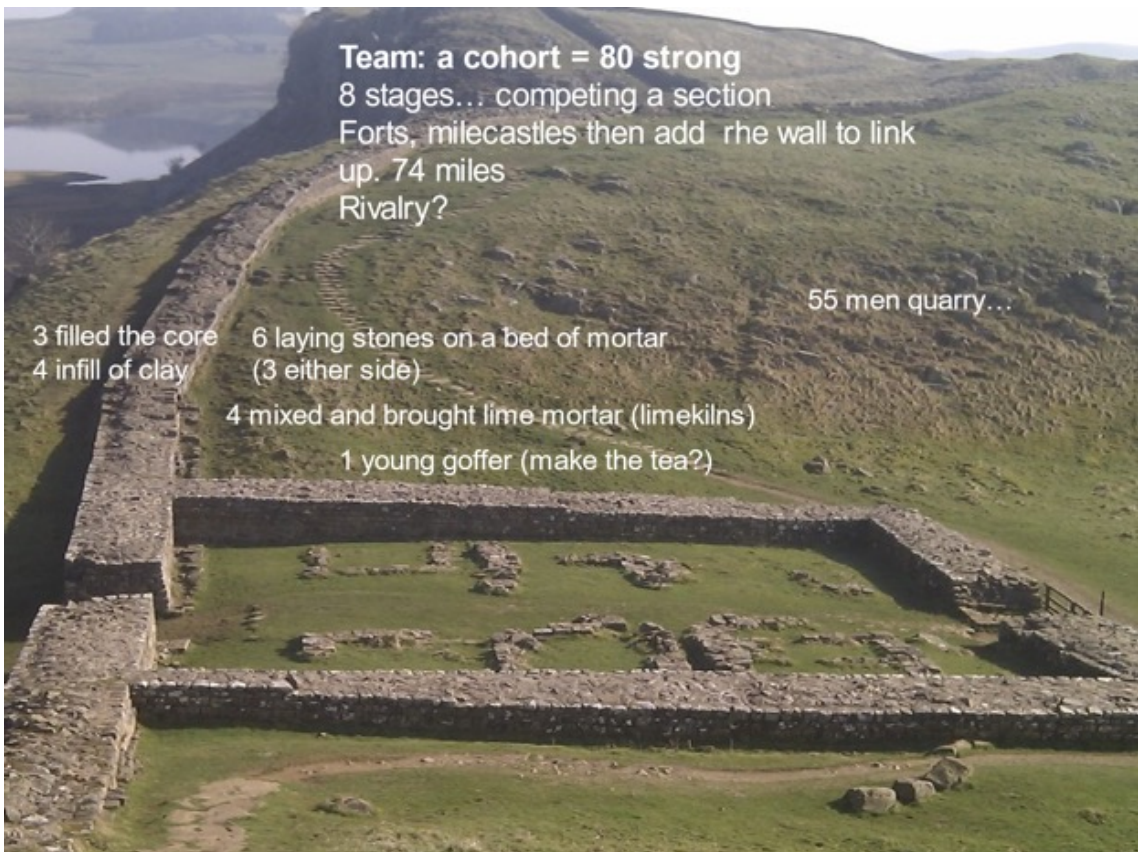
The Senate confirmed Hadrian as Emperor. However, there were four Senators who doubted the authenticity of Trajan's signature on the adoption document. They were assassinated, which left the Senate unhappy, but they went along with the confirmation.

## June Monthly Meeting – contd

Hadrian was still in the eastern part of the Empire when he succeeded to the Imperial crown. He became an absent Emperor, visiting all 36 of the occupied provinces. In the 5<sup>th</sup> year of his travels, 122 CE, he was in Newcastle, constructing a bridge over the Tyne, the Pons Aelius. The name was taken from Hadrian's middle. It was on this visit that Hadrian saw the need for a frontier wall

Hadrian was accompanied by a large group of soldiers, Pretorian Guards, clerks, accountants and other public servants. Newcastle was briefly the hub of the entire Roman Empire; in total, there were around 7,000 Romans, together with 50 ships in active service. Hadrian wanted to build a wall to protect the fertile guarded areas from attacks by the northern tribes.

The wall was actually built by Roman soldiers. Each building team was a cohort of 80 soldiers.



## June Monthly Meeting – contd

Construction started in 122, after Hadrian had left Britain. The entire length of the Wall, around 73 miles, was built with an alternating series of forts, each housing as many as 600 men, and manned milecastles, operated by between 12 and 20 men.



It took six years to build most of the Wall with the work coming at the hands of three Roman legions, totalling 15,000 soldiers, plus some members of the Roman fleet. The production of the Wall was within the areas of expertise for the soldiers, as some would have trained to be surveyors, engineers, masons, and carpenters.

The Wall was in use until after the end of Roman rule, in 410, but eventually fell into ruin.

Hadrian's travels continued after he left Britain. He was in Greece from 124 to 125, Africa from 126 to 128, and Greece, Asia, and Egypt (128–130). It was in Egypt that his companion and likely lover, Antinous, drowned in the Nile. Hadrian was devastated, weeping in public (which was not the done thing for an Emperor).

Hadrian was in Judea in 133, during the Second Roman–Jewish War (132–136). His final years were based in Rome. He sponsored new buildings and the repair of older ones. One of his final acts was to restore the Pantheon.



Hadrian died on 10<sup>th</sup> July 138 CE, aged 62.



## Future Monthly Meetings in 2022

**21st July – Alex Lister from Northumberland Wildlife Trust** will be talking about the past and present of the Druridge area in his presentation “Wilding Druridge” (note – this an additional event that has been put into the programme).

**15th Sept – Prof. Brian Ward - “The North-East’s connection to Abolitionism and the American Civil War”**

**20th Oct - Tom Cadwallender, Regional Representative of the BTO - “The Effects of Climate Change on Winter Birds”** - Following the AGM

**17th Nov - Mark Hatton - “The Artwork and Symbolism of Gravestones”**

**15th Dec - Jessica Turner - “The Life and Times of St Cuthbert”** Plus Xmas get-together

**The 11<sup>th</sup> August Talk by Tim Maxwell at Felton Park**, about the Restoration of its Grade II listed Victorian Greenhouse, is now full; the maximum capacity has now been reached. However, there are still some spare seats for lunch at the Northumberland Arms. If anyone is interested in just a social lunch, contact Kathy Platt via [Groups.Alnwick.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:Groups.Alnwick.u3a@gmail.com)

## Book Group 3 - Applications invited to join our shortlist

BG3 usually meets on the 3rd Monday of the Month at 2pm in the small hall, at St. Michael's Parish Hall, Alnwick.

We normally keep a shortlist of u3a members who would be interested in joining our group. However, the waiting list was recently reduced to zero and so we would now like to invite interested members to apply to join our shortlist. We operate a first come first serve basis.

Further details of the group including lists of its past, present and future books can be seen on the Alnwick u3a website at the following link: <https://u3asites.org.uk/alnwick/page/106438>

Applications by email to the Group Coordinator, John Godfrey.  
Email: [Jogotoday@gmail.com](mailto:Jogotoday@gmail.com)

## “W” Quiz

All answers include a word starting with the letter W

1	Believed to have formed part of the Temple of Solomon, by what other name is Jerusalem's Western Wall more usually known?	
2	A plant, originally from the Canary Isles, but very common in English gardens?	
3	A language in Belgium?	
4	In 'The Last of the Summer Wine' what was Nora's husband called?	
5	Who starred in both Minder and Stay Lucky	
6	Who was the last Irish driver to win the British Grand Prix? (1981)	
7	Who had a No 2 in 1984 with 'It's Raining Men'?	
8	Which cereal manufacturer makes Alpen?	
9	Into which river did the Pied Piper lead the rats?	
10	Who is credited as being the most prolific writer of hymns?	
11	"Well, it's not the men in your life that counts, it's the life in your men." – which film star said that?	
12	In which London borough did Jack the Ripper perform his infamous murders?	
13	1600 Pennsylvania Avenue	
14	Which company owned the ill-fated Titanic?	
15	Which fast food chain opened its first UK outlet in London in 1954?	
16	What type of building has sails?	
17	In which children's book would you find an Effalump	
18	What was the name of the Cook in the TV series Rawhide?	
19	Catch phrase was "Walkies"?	
20	Who had a No 1 with I've Got a Brand-New Combine Harvester	

# Miscellaneous

Why you shouldn't wait until retirement to travel



## Tai Chi update

This is Peter Barnes, who leads the classes.

Note – Seated and Standing Tai Chi has now finished for the summer.

Both Groups resume in the 1st week in September.



# Seeking New Committee Members

As our Chair has mentioned in her message on the front page of this Newsletter, we will need to refresh our Committee membership at the AGM in October. Please take a moment to consider whether you could put your name forward.

It is a very interesting role and you would be helping our u3a to continue to operate for the benefit of our membership. Why not have a chat with one of the current Committee members? If you don't already know, you can find out who we are at page 9 of the Welcome Pack :

<https://u3asites.org.uk/files/a/alnwick/docs/welcome-pack-amended16-05-22.pdf>

You can also find a lot of information about being a Committee member on the national u3a website at:

<https://sources.u3a.org.uk/2021/11/02/bigger-and-better-u3a-committees>

The future of Alnwick u3a is dependant on members coming forward to help in a variety of ways, whether that be helping in the hall at the monthly meetings or sending articles to the newsletter, for example.

Every contribution no matter how small helps to make Alnwick u3a a more vibrant group.

# Odds and Ends

I don't always go the extra mile, but when I do it's because I missed my exit.

A day without coffee probably won't kill me, but why risk it.

In Star Wars, anyone can hop into any spaceship and knows how to fly it. I just spent 20 minutes trying to find the headlight switch in a rental car.

I was walking past a farm and a sign said "Duck, eggs". I thought "that's an unnecessary comma – and then it hit me.

A truck loaded with Vicks vapor rub overturned on the motorway. Amazingly, there was no congestion for 8 hours.

Did you know, the German for Brexit is **Austrittsvertragsratifizierungsgesetz**

I've come up with a set of rules that describe our reactions to technologies:

1– Anything that is **in the world when you're born** is normal and ordinary and is just a natural part of the world works

2 – Anything that is **invented between when you're 15 and when you are 35** is new and exciting and revolutionary and you can probably get a career in it

3 – **Anything invented after you're 35** is against the natural order of things

**Douglas Adams**

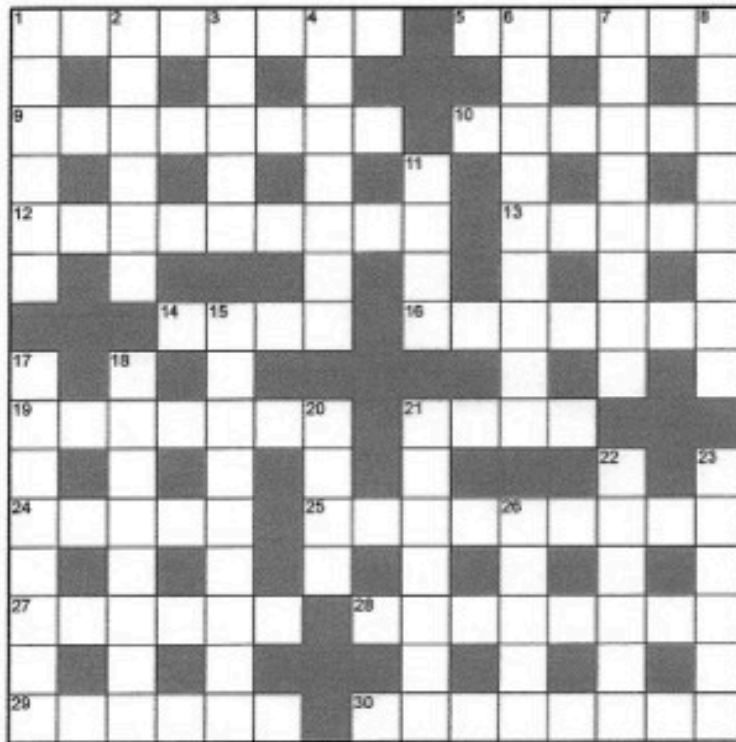
If you ever hear me order a decaf coffee, I've been kidnapped and am trying to signal you

I just burnt my Hawaiian pizza.

Should have used aloha temperature

# Crossword

(courtesy of Maureen and Alan Sayers)



## ACROSS

- 1 Run like the appreciative audience (8)
- 5 Part of a military policeman's uniform (6)
- 9 Not exactly a stable environment for a horse (5,3)
- 10 Plan it differently so it's easily managed (6)
- 12 Make something of the contents of a Christmas treat (9)
- 13 Give someone the elbow (5)
- 14 Some expensive writers (4)
- 16 Bad-tempered daredevil (7)
- 19 Loves to reassemble sidearm (7)
- 21 Award presented to J. Arthur Rank (4)
- 24 Assemblies are held here in Pythagoras' neck of the woods (5)
- 25 Constitutional change for the better (9)
- 27 Gaslights contain something inconsiderable (6)
- 28 Protection for a F1 motor? (8)
- 29 Controls the movement of livestock (6)
- 30 This Jane was a complete disaster (8)

## DOWN

- 1 Newspaper article about a convoy of ships (6)
- 2 The number you can get on a horse (6)
- 3 Part of a firearm (5)
- 4 Craftsmen of the highest order (7)
- 6 Royal jazz composer (9)
- 7 He's the one to deal with before setting off on a sea voyage (8)
- 8 Colliery managers who tend to work on bank (8)
- 11 Irritation in the kitchenette (4)
- 15 Boxer who nags a lot (9)
- 17 Runs around the mule which annoys and intimidates it (8)
- 18 I'm on the 'phone so I'm not moving! (8)
- 20 Chesterfield is a parliamentary constituency (4)
- 21 A garden recreated in the Caribbean (7)
- 22 Daniel confused over what to call Mount McKinley (6)
- 23 Determined to be unsympathetic (6)
- 26 Make a scene in a melodramatic way (5)

## **Tom's Tales**

An elderly woman decided to prepare her will and told her lawyer she had two final requests.

First she wanted to be cremated, and second, her ashes scattered over Tesco.

"Tesco?" the lawyer exclaimed.

"Why Tesco?"

"Then I'll be sure my daughters visit me twice a week."

**Tom Burroughs**

## **Membership Renewals**

Enrolment for 2022/23 starts on 1<sup>st</sup> September. A downloadable membership form will be placed on the website nearer the time.

## **Feedback & contributions are very welcome!**

Please send any comments on this newsletter, suggestions for improvement and contributions for future editions to:

[Newsletter.Alnwick.u3a@gmail.com](mailto:Newsletter.Alnwick.u3a@gmail.com)

The next newsletter will be published on 5<sup>th</sup> September and the contributions deadline is 2<sup>nd</sup> September.

## “W” Quiz Answers

- |    |                 |    |                   |
|----|-----------------|----|-------------------|
| 1  | Wailing Wall    | 11 | Mae West          |
| 2  | Wallflower      | 12 | Whitechapel       |
| 3  | Walloon         | 13 | White House       |
| 4  | Wally           | 14 | White Star Line   |
| 5  | Dennis Waterman | 15 | Wimpy             |
| 6  | John Watson     | 16 | Windmill          |
| 7  | Weather Girls   | 17 | Winnie The Pooh   |
| 8  | Weetabix        | 18 | Wishbone          |
| 9  | Weser           | 19 | Barbara Woodhouse |
| 10 | Charles Wesley  | 20 | Wurzels           |

## Crossword Answers

**ACROSS** - 1 Clappers. 5 Redcap. 9 Loose Box. 10 Pliant. 12 Mincemeat. 13 Nudge. 14 Pens. 16 Hothead. 19 Admirers. 21 Gong. 24 Agora. 25 Amendment. 27 Slight. 28 Carapace. 29 Steers. 30 Calamity.

**DOWN** - 1 Column. 2 Amount. 3 Piece. 4 Roofers. 6 Ellington. 7 Chandler. 8 Pitheads. 11 Itch. 15 Earbasher. 17 Harasses. 18 Immobile. 20 Seat. 21 Grenada. 22 Denali. 23 Steely. 26 Drama.

### End Piece – a Tanaga

*Cow parsley shrouds the verges  
Where the hedge and grass merges  
There unseen snails sing dirges  
As summer season surges*

**Mary Atkinson**