



Members Newsletter May 2022

A Message from the Chair

Welcome everyone to the May edition of the Newsletter. I'd like to say welcome too to the lovely Spring weather, but at the time of writing, it's not quite there yet, although the trees are now in leaf and blossoming. I'm pleased to say that our membership is also blossoming, so perhaps the Editor of the Newsletter will soon be inundated with your contributions - don't be shy!

Kathy Platt

Contents

May Photos	p2
March Monthly Meeting	p3
April Monthly Meeting	p4
Future Monthly Meetings	p5
Hidden Knowledge	p5
Quiz – Name the Politicians	p6
Spotlight on Science Group	p7
Odds and Ends	p9
Crossword	p10
Tom's Tales	p11
Quiz and Crossword Answers	P12
End Piece	p12

May Photos

This month's theme is *The Shetland Isles*. All photos taken by Maureen Sayers.



Shetland Ponies on Yell



Fulmars at Baltasound



Eshaness



Puffins at Sumburgh Head



Sunbathing Seals



Loch of Strom

March Monthly Meeting – 17th March 2022

"Canine Partners": Presented by Susan Fulton

Susan was accompanied by her lovely assistance dog, Esther. She gave us an interesting talk about Canine Partners and what they do.

Canine Partners Canine Partners is a registered charity that transforms the lives of people with physical disabilities by partnering them with assistance dogs. These amazing dogs bring a greater independence and quality of life to their partners, offering security, companionship, and practical help with everyday household tasks. These life-changing dogs also provide psychological and social benefits including increased independence, confidence, social interaction and self-esteem.

These assistance dogs are trained to meet the needs of individuals with even the most complex physical disabilities, and currently help adults aged 18 and over (both civilians and former service personnel) who have a physical disability or condition that affects their daily life and limits their independence. Some of the disabilities and conditions they work with include multiple sclerosis, cerebral palsy, spinal and head injuries, stroke, and arthritis, to name just a few.

Susan explained that Canine Partners work in partnership with Help for Heroes, The Royal British Legion, and other services organisations to provide assistance dogs for veterans and those wounded in service. She gave us several examples how the dogs can give assistance, such as a man whose dog does just about everything; it helps the man to get out of bed, put on his clothes and helps him to his wheelchair, then it goes to the kitchen and opens cupboards for breakfast food, and opens the fridge so the man can get milk for his cereal. Very impressive!

Another example was a man with multiple sclerosis, whose dog (called Oxford – a lovely name for a dog) helps him with all sorts of activities, including going sailing. Oxford helps at the supermarket, getting things off low shelves, and passing the man's wallet to the cashier.



Susan told us about the extensive and specialist training that the dogs must undertake, over a period of about two years, starting with selection at seven to eight weeks old. The dogs then spend 12 to 14 months in puppy training with a volunteer, followed by four months' advanced training at one of the charity's specialist centres. Usually the dogs are Labradors, golden retrievers, or crosses of these breeds, but sometimes they train poodle crosses for people with allergies. During the next few months the dogs hone their skills and are carefully matched with a person with a disability who is on the charity's waiting list, and training is then tailored to meet that individual's specific requirements.

At the end of the advanced training, the applicant is invited to a two-week residential course at one of the charity's centres with their chosen canine partner under the guidance of the dog's trainer. The applicant learns how to work with their dog and continue its training, as well as what motivates their particular dog and how to take care of their canine friend. It is during this busy two weeks that the special bond between dog and partner begins. The charity of course offers ongoing care and guidance through regular aftercare visits and telephone support, which ensures the success of the partnerships and well-being of all the dogs throughout their entire working lives until their well-deserved retirement.

April Monthly Meeting – 21st April 2022

***Ad Gefrin - whisky distillery in Wooler*: Presented by Chris Ferguson**

Chris Ferguson gave an excellent talk on the new development at Wooler. Ad Gefrin will be a visitor attraction, housing a Whisky & Gin distillery, a Museum with an interactive display, a shop and Bistro. This new enterprise, providing around 50 new jobs, will hopefully be open by the autumn of 2022.

The area where the distillery sits has an interesting history. A dye mill once stood on the site, but following its decline it was bought by the Tankerville family, who opened a steam laundry for unmarried mothers. Women arrived in Wooler from all parts of the UK, and this was run by the Salvation Army until the 1920's.

The land was then bought by Redpaths Haulage who operated until the 1990's when it passed to the Ferguson family.

Chris, who is an archaeologist, gave an enthusiastic account of Anglo Saxon Northumbria. The name Ad Gefrin stems from the summer palace of King Edwin at Yeavering, four miles north of Wooler. During the 1950's an excavation of the site revealed an assembly structure made of wood which seated 400 people, and it also revealed a great hall.

Plans are underway to reconstruct the great hall of the palace within the distillery complex, complete with interactive displays and specially embroidered banners that would have hung in the great hall. Artifacts on loan from various institutions including the British Museum will be on display. Smithsonian magazine reported that Ad Gefrin was the most anticipated museum opening in the world: praise indeed.

Ad Gefrin is making history by being the first legal distillery in Northumberland for 200 years! The distilling process will produce a single malt whisky produced from the barley of four local farms, Cheviot water and malt from Simpsons Maltsters in Berwick, giving this whisky a very small carbon footprint. Whisky takes three years and one day to produce, so while we await this process Ad Gefrin will also be producing their own gin.

We all look forward to welcoming Chris back to the u3a perhaps for a tasting session!

Maureen Sayers

Future Monthly Meetings in 2022

19th May – Bill Bland – ‘The History of Ordnance Survey’ - Ordnance Survey from its origins up to the present day.

16th June – Andy Griffin – ‘Hadrian and his Wall’ - In celebration of the wall being 1900 years old.

28th July – 1 Day Coach Outing to York - (1 week later than usual monthly meeting)

11th Aug - Morning Talk by Tim Maxwell at Felton Park about the Restoration of its Grade II listed Victorian Greenhouse (1 week earlier than usual; numbers limited)
Followed by Running Fox lunch (optional)

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

HIDDEN KNOWLEDGE



There are a few weeks in each year when we pay for the Small Hall but it isn't being used. This is when the Months have 5 weeks. We could use it for One Day Workshops.

The question is, do any of you lovely members have any hidden talents or knowledge that you would like to share for people to try and to take away. It would only be one day for an hour or two and hopefully for both men and women.

I can think of a couple of examples but there must be more:

Photography from your iPhone

Origami

A Craft Session

November would be a good time for Christmas Cards, table/tree decorations

I would love to know how to wrap presents neatly

Non baking sweets. I'm sure I did this as a child

If anyone or a group of you together would like to organise a workshop, please get in touch so that we can look at dates etc. I will help with organisation if you wish.

I think that it would be good fun.

Anne McMillan

Quiz

Can You Name The Politicians?

1.	HEARSAY MET	11.	HAJJ MORON
2.	TREBLE ROPE	12.	CHRONIC HUNT SWILL
3.	AIL LIMP TWIT	13.	HAD TEETH
4.	BARMAID ELSE JINNI	14.	CANCEL SERVER PEP
5.	ROMANCED DIVA	15.	EVADED GOODLY GIRL
6.	LASAGNA JAM LECH	16.	OAR DOWNHILLS
7.	REGATTA ARCH THERM	17.	HARES CRY LEG
8.	LIBYA TORN	18.	A MEDALLIST LOWING
9.	ALMANACS YARD MOD	19.	BEWARE TROLLOP
10.	MANDALA RICH MOLL	20.	LAME ELECT TEN

Spotlight on an Interest Group

The Science Group

Those of you who read her obituary in the January Newsletter will know that Kate Winkler founded the Science Group in 2013, calling it the “Appliance of Science Group”. Originally, it covered science relating to our daily lives, applications in industry, medicine and food. Over the years the Group broadened its remit with Stanley Trafford as Group Leader. When we all closed down at the outset of covid, the Group went into temporary abeyance, until Trevor Robinson restarted the Group with Zoom meetings.

From February to September 2021, there was a monthly Zoom meeting covering a range of topics including the moons of Jupiter and Saturn, biological aspects of criminal behaviour, salt caverns under the North Sea, and the life and death of stars.

We returned to meetings at St. Michaels last October, when Stanley gave a talk on quantum theory. After that, Stanley decided to take a break, so Trevor has carried on as co-Group leader. January saw a presentation by Doris Hinshaw on Leaves, and in February Trevor gave his Project Apollo presentation (which he had been working on for two years!)— complete with rocket models, Buzz Aldrin’s autograph and a real piece of the Apollo 11 capsule.

Subjects for future meetings are being worked on, but will include another topic on criminal behaviour, and possibly visits to the Life Science Centre and the Northumberland Spirit Company (there surely must be something scientific about making gin!).

Instead of a March meeting, 15 of us paid a visit to Kielder Observatory, where we had a fun evening learning about stars and telescopes, and touching meteorites. And standing on a piece of Mars...

So if you are interested in things scientific, you are very welcome to join us. We meet on the fourth Friday of the month, at 2pm in the small hall at St. Michael’s.

Trevor Robinson, co-Group Leader

Photos from the Science Group visit to Kielder Observatory – 29th March 2022



Trevor standing on Mars



Meteor from Mars



Doris standing on Mars



Inside the Sir Pat turret



Inside the Sir Pat turret



In the main lecture room



In the Gillian Dickinson Astro-Imaging Centre

Odds and Ends

A Spanish magician tells the audience he will disappear on the count of three. He says, '*Uno, dos...*' and poof! He disappeared without a *tres*.

People have always named children after expensive things, such as Mercedes, Dior, Chardonnay. Next year, watch out for Electricity, Gas and Petrol.

A giant fly attacked a police station. They had to call out the SWAT team.

If you are sweating whilst putting petrol in your car, and feeling sick when you pay for it, you have carowner virus.

Heard on a tour bus in Dublin – “Here is the burial place of the man who invented crosswords. You will find him at two down and three across”.

I wanted to hire a landscape gardener, but he said he couldn't help, as my garden is portrait.

I think it's sad that the word “legend” has been devalued from pulling a sword from a stone to unexpectedly returning from the bar with crisps

As a child I was made to walk the plank.

We couldn't afford a dog.

My star sign is Pyrex.

I was a test-tube baby.

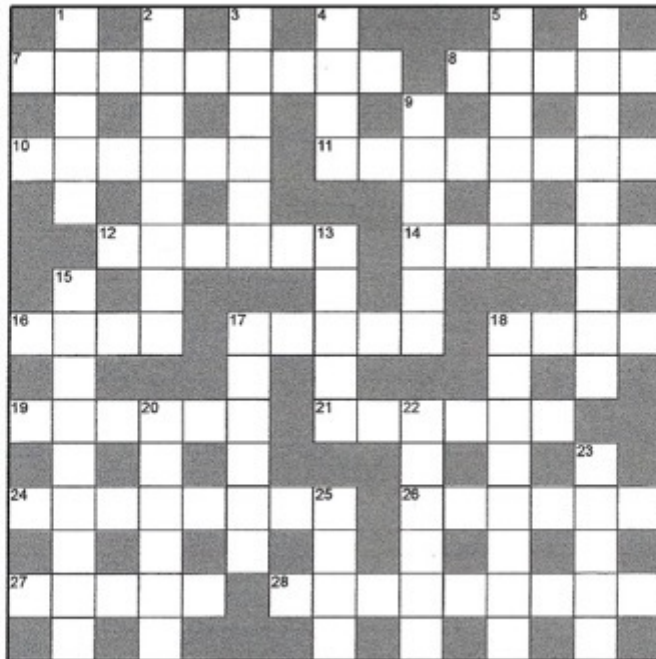
Husband – “Why do you keep buying plants when you just end up killing them?”

Wife – “Just to remind you what I'm capable of.”

Where would we be without satnav?

Crossword

(courtesy of Maureen and Alan Sayers)



ACROSS

- 7 Girl I leave Egyptian city for (9)
- 8 It's another thing to be in the dark (5)
- 10 Every chance he'll wake himself up (6)
- 11 Sheet music bound together (8)
- 12 Optics to scan closely (6)
- 14 Being fatal made all the difference (6)
- 16 Work on the soup being varied (4)
- 17 Went out with someone who's old fashioned (5)
- 18 Intend to be miserly (4)
- 19 Recaps somehow on what a predicament one is in (6)
- 21 To be specific they're just confused laymen (6)
- 24 Not exactly what the French would class as fast food (8)
- 26 One who stays temporarily in a beaver's home? (6)
- 27 The chances of throwing a double-six are risky (5)
- 28 The hard graft to be done in a graveyard (9)

DOWN

- 1 Not the sharpest member of a spy ring (5)
- 2 Takes out citations (8)
- 3 Reveal what the present holds (6)
- 4 Jenny has gone to sea (4)
- 5 I don't fancy hanging around here (6)
- 6 Disposable cast-off (9)
- 9 A hovel that was first to be designed (6)
- 13 Fabric with some sort of stain (5)
- 15 Steps into a vessel that will transport you to another world (9)
- 17 Clear the bed (6)
- 18 Someone at Sizewell is having an extremely bad day at work (8)
- 20 Makes less intense for the sailors who ate in (6)
- 22 Massachusetts woman has a serious illness (6)
- 23 Supports the weight of koalas (5)
- 25 Headgear for an antelope (4)

Tom's Tales

This is from an actual Australian Court case .

A lady about 8 months pregnant got on a bus. She noticed the man opposite her was smiling at her. She immediately moved to another seat. This time the smile turned into a grin, so she moved again.

The man seemed more amused. When on the fourth move the man burst out laughing, she complained to the driver, and he had the man arrested.

The case came to court. The judge asked the man (about 20 years old) what he had to say for himself. He said "she sat down under the sign that said 'The Double Mint Twins are coming ' and I grinned. Then she moved and sat under a sign that said ' Logan's Liniment will reduce the swelling' and I had to smile.

Then she placed herself under a deodorant sign that said, 'William's Big Stick Did the Trick' and I could hardly contain myself. But, Your Honour, when she moved the fourth time and sat under a sign that said 'Goodyear Rubber could have prevented this accident', I just lost it.

'CASE DISMISSED!'

Tom Burroughs

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

The next newsletter will be published on 4th July and the contributions deadline is 1st July.

Quiz Answers

1.	HEARSAY MET	<i>Theresa May</i>	11.	HAIJ MORON	<i>John Major</i>
2.	TREBLE ROPE	<i>Robert Peel</i>	12.	CHRONIC HUNT SWILL	<i>Winston Churchill</i>
3.	AIL LIMP TWIT	<i>William Pitt</i>	13.	HAD TEETH	<i>Ted Heath</i>
4.	BARMAID ELSE JINNI	<i>Benjamin Disraeli</i>	14.	CANCEL SERVER PEP	<i>Spencer Perceval</i>
5.	ROMANCED DIVA	<i>David Cameron</i>	15.	EVADED GOODLY GIRL	<i>David Lloyd George</i>
6.	LASAGNA JAM LECH	<i>James Callaghan</i>	16.	OAR DOWNHILLS	<i>Harold Wilson</i>
7.	REGATTA ARCH THERM	<i>Margaret Thatcher</i>	17.	HARES CRY LEG	<i>Charles Grey</i>
8.	LIBYA TORN	<i>Tony Blair</i>	18.	A MEDALLIST LOWING	<i>William Gladstone</i>
9.	ALMANACS YARD MOD	<i>Ramsay MacDonald</i>	19.	BEWARE TROLLOP	<i>Robert Walpole</i>
10.	MANDALA RICH MOLL	<i>Harold Macmillan</i>	20.	LAME ELECT TEN	<i>Clement Attlee</i>

Crossword Answers

ACROSS - 7 Alexandra. 8 Night. 10 Snorer. 11 Notebook. 12 Scopes. 14 Lethal. 16 Opus. 17 Dated. 18 Mean. 19 Scrape. 21 Namely. 24 Escargot. 26 Lodger. 27 Dicey. 28 Spadework.

DOWN - 1 Blunt. 2 Extracts. 3 Unwrap. 4 Wren. 5 Gibbet. 6 Throwaway. 9 Styled. 13 Satin. 15 Spaceship. 17 Dredge. 18 Meltdown. 20 Abates. 22 Malady. 23 Bears. 25 Topi.

End Piece

*Cherry blossom dawn
Closes the curtain of night
Unfolds the spring day*

Mary Atkinson