

Newsletter

Hartlepool & District U3A

Issue 71, April 2023



Comments from the Chair

In my last 'Comment from the chair' I was extolling the virtues of the start of meteorological spring which started on the 1st of March. This was followed by an unwelcome return to winter for the next few weeks! I am now placing my bet firmly on astronomical spring which starts this year on the 20th of March. This is being written on the previous day and the sun is streaming through my window and people are strolling along the promenade enjoying the temperature being well into double figures. However, I am not going to be fooled twice. This year I am going to wait until the return of the kittiwakes and the disappearance of the curlews before I think of casting a clout. Best to trust in nature rather than a man - made calendar.

The above lesson reminded me not to take anything for granted. Those of you who attended last month's meeting will have noticed that the talk was given by yours truly rather than the advertised speaker due to a late cancellation. We did not have anything in place as we had used the two nature videos we had bought for such a contingency during the pandemic and so had nothing in the cupboard so to speak.

The tenure of some of our committee members will come to an end in June so we need to be in a position to replace them, so that our u3a can continue to exist. Are you one of the members we have out there willing to take up a position on our committee? You can be assured of a very warm welcome. Have a word with me or one of the committee members if you are interested.

Our speaker for our next meeting on Friday 14th April will be the very popular Bernard Hope who will be talking to us about '40 years at the chalkface'. I hope to see many of you there.

Take care everybody.

Roger

Important Notice

Please note that April's general meeting will take place on the 14th of April as the 7th of April is Good Friday.

“Fings Ain’t What They Used to Be!”

Ken Williams

I suppose it could just be my imagination, but I don’t think so, when I say it seems to me that there are now fewer birds around these parts than was the case when I was a somewhat younger fellow.

In those days, on throwing down scraps of bread etc., almost immediately there were a flock of ten or a dozen House Sparrows feeding; and within moments, a handful of Starlings, a couple of Blackbirds and a Thrush or two. And usually, it wasn’t long before a Robin and a Dunnock, (formerly known as a Hedge Sparrow) had joined the group. But not so nowadays.

Furthermore, if your bird feeding tended to be with bags of nuts; once again, things have changed. In the past peanuts would almost instantly attract bundles of Blue Tits, gaggles of Greenfinches, and a couple of Chaffinches, Great Tits, Coal Tits etc; but not any longer, - much fewer nowadays.

Likewise, along the shore, things have changed. There are still a Cormorant or two, and a fair number of gulls and Oystercatchers – biggish black and white chaps with orange bill and legs – but Redshanks, the so-called ‘Warden of the Marshes’ – noisy individuals; red legs, and noticeably broad trailing white edges to their wings – are much fewer; as are the much smaller Ringed Plovers; still to be seen poking about, but in smaller numbers.

Another noticeable feature along the shore always used to be small flocks of Sanderlings, - dainty, little silver-grey fellows – scurrying relentlessly to and fro along the water’s edge; still occurring, but not to be guaranteed these days.

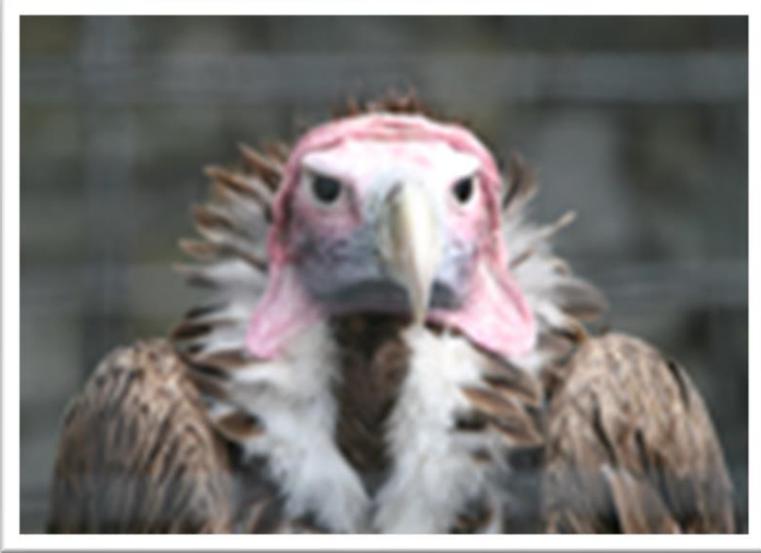
Also, on or near rocks, and happily still to be seen though fewer, are Turnstones. They do turn over stones, seeking food, as their name suggests, but are more commonly seen searching about on rocks on the Headland or at North Gare. They’re about the size of a biggish Starling, mostly motley grey/brown upperparts, but bold black and white bars on back and wings when in flight.

Why all this should be, I really don’t know. Were I to guess, I would suggest perhaps a couple of poor breeding seasons, but once again, why would that be? Infertility? Perhaps, but caused by? Shortage of suitable food supply at the right time? Quite possibly, but who knows?

Let’s just hope that this year’s breeding season redresses the balance.

Avian Portraits

Bill Horsley



April Fools' Day

Barry Liddle

April Fools' Day is a long-held tradition on 1st April involving practical jokes and hoaxes. One of the all-time great April Fools' Day hoaxes, appeared on the BBC Panorama programme in 1957. The hoax related to the supply of Spaghetti.

Nowadays, everyone has a packet of spaghetti at the back of a kitchen cupboard and most of us will have seen spaghetti made from scratch on countless cookery programmes. But back in the pre-supermarket age of 1957, very few people will have bought or eaten spaghetti and fewer still would have any idea about its provenance. So this was a fertile area for April's Fool's Day.

The Panorama viewer was shown extensive TV footage of Spaghetti 'trees' being harvested after the dreaded 'spaghetti weevil' had been overcome by modern science.

According to *Wikipedia* 'A large number of people contacted the BBC wanting to know how to cultivate their own spaghetti trees'. The idea for the hoax is thought to have been pitched to the BBC by a freelance camera operator and the hoax was given some gravitas by having the authoritative commentary delivered by Richard Dimbleby.

Every few years extracts from the Panorama spaghetti tree hoax are repeated on TV around April Fools' Day, keep a watch to see if this is going to be one of those years.

Sources: Wikipedia

Membership Renewal 2023

Cliff Cordiner, Treasurer.

Preparation for Membership renewal is well underway as we look forward to some of the exciting things we have planned for the coming year.

An email will be sent shortly inviting you to rejoin for those of you who have chosen this form of communication.

Covid certainly had an impact on our membership and activities, but hopefully those days are behind us. Activity groups are back up and running and our membership numbers are increasing once again. At our last general meeting we welcomed eight new members.

Membership renewal via online banking has proved popular and we hope more members will embrace this form of payment. It is the easiest and most secure way to pay. However you can still pay by cheque or cash for those who favour that method of payment.

In the February newsletter you were informed that the subscription for 2023 will be £20 (or £16 for Associate Members). Those who wish to pay by cash or cheque can do so at the general meeting on 14th April 2023.

Anyone who wishes to renew by online bank transfer can do so any time after 5th April 2023, 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 well as the exciting things planned here in Hartlepool, don't forget to check out the u3a YouTube channel and the u3a website to find out about the national and regional events taking place in the coming months. The 'Off the Wall' event in May celebrating the building of Hadrian's wall, and the influence it has had on our creative lives, is just one of them. Perhaps you would like to cook for the King by entering the competition to mark the forthcoming Coronation in May, and create a dish that celebrates and reflects Britain in 2023. Whatever your interests there is something for everyone.

Progress Report on Interest Groups

Pauline Williamson, Groups Coordinator

I'd like to share with you the groups that are available for you to join. I do recommend that you give them a try to get a flavour of what's on offer. Please see me for further details on joining any of the groups or email the leaders directly through the u3a website.

Archaeology & History. Leader: Chris McLoughlin, People's Centre, Raby Road, 2nd Thursday every month @ 10:30.

- Some weeks, talks are held in the Peoples Centre; other weeks, outings are arranged to visit places of interest.

Board Games. Leader: Irene Williams, Irene's house, 3rd Thursday @ 2pm.

- Come and enjoy some board games in a small, friendly environment. Bring your own favourite game along if you want.

Bridge. Leader: Leader: Phil Jeffries, Masonic Hall, every Friday @ 10:30.

- The card game of Bridge, aimed at beginners and improvers. Experienced players also welcome, though you would probably teach more than you learn.

Chess. Leader: Roger Say, Roger's house, Ad Hoc Friday @ 2pm.

- Roger is available should you be interested in a game of chess.

Creative Writing. Leader: Roger Say, Art Gallery Café, Church Square 2nd Friday @2pm.

- There is a set topic and you are welcome to share your creativity with the group by writing short stories, poems or anything else that hits your imagination.

Fun with Fabrics. Leader: Ann Say, Peoples Centre, Raby Road, 4th Thursday @10am.

- In these 'make and take' sessions, you will be making small projects using a variety of techniques e.g., hand sewing, needle felting and applique. No experience necessary.

Natural History. Joint Leaders: Irene Archer, Margaret Andrews, Beryl Turnbull, pre-arranged locations, 1st Thursday @13:30.

- A chance to walk and look at the wild life in local areas. We walk between 1 to 2 miles on easy terrain noting flora and fauna in different habitats at different times of the year.

Photography for Fun. Leader: Ray Elliston, pre-arranged locations, 1st & 3rd Tuesday afternoons:

- See Hartlepool and surrounding areas through the eyes of a camera.

Quiz. Leader: John Campbell, The Central Hub, York Road, 3rd Tuesday @ 2pm.

- Test your general knowledge against other members in a friendly environment.

Reading. Leader: Andrea Reid, The Central Hub, York Road, 4th Thursday @2pm.

- Members discuss the set reader over a cup of tea or coffee and choose the next book to be read from a list provided by Hartlepool library. There is a wide choice of genres on the list so the group can cater for all tastes.

Shibashi. Leader: Marjorie Reynolds, Marjorie's house, every Tuesday @ 10 am.

- Shibashi is a set of 18 simple Qigong moves or exercises which benefits the body, mind and emotions. It helps with balance, flexibility and strength even for people in their nineties or noughties. Give it a try and be surprised.

View at Vue. Check Notice Board, whenever Live Links/ Met Opera.

- We meet to watch live performances of plays, operas and ballet at the Vue cinema.

Walking. Leader: Keith Alder, pre-arranged locations, 3rd Thursday @ 10:30.

- Walks in the Hartlepool area, about 2 1/2 to 3 hours duration and about 3 to 4 miles in length. Perfect for getting some exercise while meeting friends.

Other Groups in Waiting.

There is a great possibility of the Gardening group restarting and talks are in place with a new leader for the Music Appreciation Society. Let's hope both of these groups restart and gather momentum.

Another Book Club could be restarted depending on your support. We do have a couple of members already and we just need several more to make the group viable. There is a range of books to choose from covering a wide spectrum of themes and genres. If you like reading come and give us a try and it will open your eyes to a whole new world, maybe you will read books you never thought you would.

Board Games.

This month I decided to join another group and thought Board games would be a good choice. After all, what could be better than a nice, easy, relaxing afternoon playing games after an outing with the walking group that same morning.

Everybody in the board games group was so welcoming and friendly. But then the conversation changed to what game should be played. It was at this point my thoughts of a gentle round or two of Snakes and Ladders were shattered, as the games being mentioned were both games I'd not heard of and were much more complex than Snakes and Ladders.

I couldn't tell you what the game was called that we played, but the group was very patient in explaining the rules – even after the second or third time! But, even so, everybody had great fun. I was thoroughly enjoying myself, especially when Irene produced a plate of biscuits and a bowl full of chocolates to have with our cuppas. Thank you, Irene, for being such a wonderful and generous hostess. I look forward to our next meeting and wonder what game we will play next month. Irene is prepared to open another room for more members to join us.

Our Eli Cliff Cordiner



Last month I wrote in the Newsletter about my late wife's grand uncle James Casey, known to many as Jimmy James. This reminded me of a family wedding I attended not long after we had been married. Among the guests was a familiar face, although I could not immediately place him. I asked my wife "who's that tall man on the next table?" She said, "that's Uncle Jack". We had been watching something on TV not long before and I said to her "he looks like that funny bloke off the TV". "That's because he is" she said.

Everybody in the family called him Uncle Jack, regardless of how he was related. To my wife he was her 1st cousin once removed. Outside of the family everyone knew him as Our Eli, or Eli Woods.

He was born John Casey in Portrack, Stockton, in 1923. He attended St

Bede's school and always had theatrical ambitions from an early age. Between the age of 11 and 14 he attended a speech therapy school to try and cure his stammer which would become his trademark, and it would endear him to millions of people.

One of the most distinctive figures in British comedy, he came from a performing family. By the late 1940's his uncle Jimmy James, the well-known music hall and television comedian, had devised several routines that required stooges. Jack used to drive for his uncle and one night in 1948 when the regular stooge couldn't make it to Jimmy's show at the Preston Hippodrome, his nephew John (Jack) Casey was drafted in to play the part of Bretton Woods, named after the site of the 1944 United Nations Monetary and Financial Conference in New Hampshire which gave rise to the IMF (International Monetary Fund).

A few months later they were starring at the London Palladium where they performed the now famous "Elephant in the Box" routine, as famous in its day as Monty Python's dead parrot sketch. By the time he appeared in the Royal Variety Performance in 1953, Jack had taken the



stage name of Eli Woods. The other stooge, 'Hutton Conyers' would either be played by members of the Casey family or (from 1956-1959) by Roy Castle.

He went on to perform with the likes of Max Miller, Des O'Connor and Les Dawson, appeared in Sunday Night at the London Palladium on 13 occasions, and appeared in the second of his two Royal Command Performances in 1982 watched by the Queen Mother.

After the death of his uncle Jimmy James, Jack remained popular performing in panto, on television and in clubs, where he showed he shared his uncle's gift for ad-libbing. He was once asked if he had a snappy comeback for hecklers and he said: "Yes, so long as they'll w-w-w-wait for it."

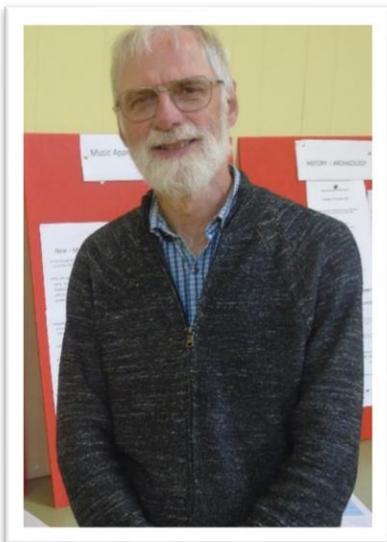
During the late 1970s and early 1980s, he starred in BBC Radio comedy shows The Worst Show on the Wireless, The Show with Ten Legs and The Show with No Name. On television, he appeared in several episodes of Last of the Summer Wine between 1988 and 2002. He also appeared in programmes including Heartbeat, You Rang M'Lord, Little Dorrit and Super Gran. He also had a part in the film A Private Function (1984).

He was a close friend of Les Dawson and often appeared in his TV shows. It was Les who introduced him to his second wife who at the time was working as a dancer with Les Dawson. Jack, or our Eli, acted in two films with his uncle Jimmy James. The first, Over The Garden Wall in 1950, was the inspiration for Les Dawson's sketch alongside Roy Barraclough where they dressed up as neighbours Cissie and Ada putting the world to rights.

Uncle Jack retired in his 80's due to failing health. He died in 2014, aged 91, and was one of the last links to the era of twice nightly variety theatre.

My Favourite Things

The Cultural Life of a U3A Member



This is a new regular feature in which each month we find out about the cultural life of one of our members. To kick off the series, Phil Jefferies our U3A Secretary and former Treasurer has been persuaded to reveal his favourite things.

In addition to his role on the Committee, Phil also runs the Bridge Group and plays an important role behind the scenes in providing I.T. support for our Website and Beacon Database.

My favourite home cooked meal.

Starter: smoked salmon and cream cheese, with a lightly dressed rocket and baby leaf salad and a glass of Sauvignon Blanc. Main: Beef Stroganoff with rice, carrots and a Côtes du Rhône-Villages. Cheese: Stilton, Camembert and a bit of whatever else takes my fancy, with Hob Nobs and a glass of Port. Desert: Morello Cherry Cheesecake with a little ice cream.

My fantasy restaurant meal.

Starter: from a holiday near Cádiz, a self-service cold buffet with a whole salmon as the centrepiece. Main: from a holiday in the Black Forest, Hirschchen vom Wald (pronounced heersh-shen fom vald), which is venison from a young deer that lived wild in the forest. Desert: from the Stanhope Arms at Bretby (near Burton-upon-Trent) circa 1970, Bombe Cerisette, comprising half a dozen or so Maraschino cherries, coated in dark chocolate, buried in a grapefruit-sized ball of ice cream (I suspect this was lightly laced with cherry brandy), encased in dark chocolate and garnished with a little whipped cream and a Maraschino cherry – definitely a world-class desert. Digestif: from a holiday in Sorrento, a glass of Limoncello – a sweet lemon liqueur.

My fantasy dinner party.

I would invite the following guests:

- Alan Mathison Turing OBE FRS (1912-1954), an English mathematician, computer scientist, logician, cryptanalyst, philosopher, and theoretical biologist. A leading figure at Bletchley Park, he is widely considered to be the father of modern computing and artificial intelligence. Sadly, he took his own life as a result of persecution by the establishment for being homosexual.

· Joanne (J.K.) Rowling CH OBE FRSL (born 1965), author of the Harry Potter series of books who, like me, suffered a period of depression. I would like to ask her what Harry “did” after saving the world (I just hope he didn’t join the after-dinner-speaker circuit).

· Barbara Gracey Thompson MBE (1944-2022), an English virtuoso jazz saxophonist and composer, also a close collaborator with Andrew Lloyd Webber on musicals such as Cats. She appeared at Stockton’s Dovecote Arts Centre circa 1995 with her band Paraphernalia and I have a signed CD from that occasion.

· Alfred Wainwright MBE (1907-1991), a fellwalker, author and illustrator, whose 1972 Coast to Coast Walk passes through the North York Moors. I suspect that he, like me, would be a fish out of water at a dinner party, but we could enjoy walking off the aftereffects the following day.

My favourite Album

Where Have I Known You Before, with the “classic” line-up of Chick Corea’s band Return to Forever. I saw them live at Nottingham University in 1976, with several extended numbers from the album. They played jazz fusion music influenced by progressive rock, with a dash of Latin thrown in. Corea was a generous composer and leader, allowing the other three band members a good deal of creative space. The result is the complex music that I enjoy, often quite fast with interplay between the instruments but sometimes reflective and melodic.

My favourite memory of watching live music.

The Hallé symphony orchestra and choir performing Beethoven’s 9th (The Choral Symphony) at Nottingham’s Royal Concert Hall circa 1975. It raised the hairs on the back of my neck on two occasions. Much as I like rock and jazz, only classical music has ever done that to me.

My favourite film.

I’m by no means a film buff. The first film I saw at the cinema, aged about 7, was My Fair Lady and my first cinema visit without parents was to see Zulu, aged 10. A film I enjoyed recently with Stockton u3a’s Film group was Yesterday, a 2019 romcom where a “freaky event” changes the world such that the Beatles never existed and only a handful of people know their music. It is well paced, with a great soundtrack of Beatles songs, social justice triumphs over greed and the girl gets the boy in the end.

My favourite songwriter or composer

It would be either Chick Corea or Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart. Both write wonderful, complex music but they are too dissimilar to choose between.

My favourite TV comedy series.

QI. It's quirky, informative and basically Quite Interesting. I seldom know the answer to any of the questions, but do recall that, unlike the panellists, I knew that if you chop the top off a cone it leaves you with a frustum (goodness knows why my brain chose to file away that snippet from a maths lesson).

My favourite TV drama series

TV drama isn't something I go out of my way to watch. I saw and enjoyed several episodes of Downton Abbey with a friend who was a fan, but didn't feel moved to watch it if I was on my own.

My favourite radio programme.

I rarely listen to the radio these days so the top entry on a short-list of one is from the late '60s: I'm Sorry I'll Read That Again, starring Tim Brooke-Taylor, John Cleese, Graeme Garden, David Hatch, Jo Kendall and Bill Oddie. It was a slightly anarchic live broadcast on the BBC Light Program for 30 minutes on Sunday afternoons. Graham Chapman and Eric Idle were regular scriptwriters so it was a forerunner of both The Goodies and Monty Python.

My favourite book

I enjoy books that make me laugh, such as Terry Pratchett's discworld series and the anarchic humour of Tom Sharpe. I enjoy a good thriller and my bookshelf has a few by Frederick Forsyth amongst others. I also enjoy fantasy novels and have derived much pleasure over the years from the Dragon Books of Anne McCaffrey, set on a world where the descendants of the human colonists have developed a sustainable civilisation with a level of technology the Normans would have recognised. They also share a symbiotic relationship with the indigenous fire-breathing dragons. My favourite is The White Dragon, but if you are new to these books you need to start at the beginning with Dragonflight.

My guilty pleasure

I'm quite partial to a cloudy night. Not the meteorological kind, but the kind you drink. I don't make it as strong as cointreau.com suggests, my recipe is 1 finger of Cointreau, 3 fingers of apple juice, 2 shots of Angostura Bitters (if available) and 1 ice cube. Preparation time: 1 minute. Optimum drinking time: not quite as long as it takes for the ice cube to melt.

A Message from the Editor

"For the next few issues of the Newsletter I will continue to invite well-known members of our U3A to reveal their 'Favourite Things,' but after that, the intension is to involve members from across our U3A community."

Recent Meetings of the Natural History Group

Irene Archer



We met on a bright sunny morning on the 27th of January at Burn Valley Gardens to take part in the Big Garden Birdwatch. The National results haven't been released yet so it isn't possible to compare our results. Our top 10 birds were as follows: Rook 19, Woodpigeon 8, Blackbird 6, Ring Necked Parakeet 4, House Sparrow 3, Blue tit 2, Dunnock 2, Great tit 2, Long Tailed tit 2, Magpie 2. A total of 15 species were seen. A fleeting sight of a Gold Crest was a bonus and the sound of 2 Greater Spotted Wood Peckers hammering on trees in the distance could be heard. We also saw a grey squirrel and the face of a vole/rat peeking out of a drainage hole in the beck. The 2022 National results gave the top bird as the House Sparrow followed by Bluetit, Starling and Woodpigeon. I think this is the second year where we haven't seen Starlings.

For our February meeting we had a 2-course meal at The Golden Lion. The meal was enjoyed by all and it gave us chance to get to know each other better and to come up with ideas for future meetings.

On the 3rd of March we met at Summerhill car park to walk to Ward Jackson Park via a footpath at the side of the roundabout. It had been raining for a few days but luckily the sun peeked out and it wasn't too muddy under foot. First, we looked at the birds on the feeders outside of the visitors' centre. We saw Long Tailed Tits, Great Tits, Robin, Blue tit and Chaffinch. Even at this time of year we saw quite a few plants in flower en route to the park. Thanks to the help of Carol, we were able to identify Daisy, Dandelion, Speedwell, Red and White Dead Nettle, Groundsel, Shepherds Purse, Bitter Cress, Goose Grass and Snowdrops. Catkins were present on Willow trees, the male part of the plant. On closer inspection, tiny red female flowers could also be seen. The male and female parts of the plant mature at different times to ensure cross-pollination.



On arriving at Ward Jackson Park we saw many ducks on the pond; Coot, Moorhen, Mallard, Tufted Duck and Muscovy Duck (an escapee from domestic stock). There were also many Canada Geese and Black Headed Gulls and a couple of Swans.

We made it to the cafe in the park in time for a cuppa and a large slice of cake!

An enjoyable informative walk with good company; satisfying our taste buds and getting some exercise. What more could you want!

Our next meeting will be on Thursday 13th of April at 1.30. Meet in the visitors' centre of Saltholme RSPB reserve.

Letters to the Editor

Dear Barry

"It was interesting to see the wonderful photo of the stately, proud, arrogant hawk in the Newsletter last month. A hawk is a visitor to our garden. Most times we don't see him but see his calling card... a host of feathers and down under bushes at the bottom of the garden.

Occasionally we do see him, but mostly his swoop to the bottom of the garden with his victim. His bottom feathers jogging up and down as he rips off the victim's feathers.

One day, we were in the kitchen having breakfast, when he swooped with his prey on to the wooden bird feeder outside the kitchen window. He pinned it on to the finial at the top of the bird feeder and started. We watched him ripping off and discarding the feathers which blew about like a snow storm. Then he tucked in to the poor little birdie.

The amazing thing was, he then pulled the carcass from the spike and flew off with it. We laughed when I said that I wondered if he was taking it home to make pan of soup with it!"

Jacky Armstrong.

Thanks for your letter Jacky. Several people have confirmed to me that the hawk in the photograph is a Sparrowhawk.

Singers from the Second Rank of Popular Music

Barry Liddle

The very best singers and their music will never be forgotten, artists such as Bing Crosby, Frank Sinatra, Johnny Cash, Aretha Franklin and Dusty Springfield. However, whilst the light from other singers may have shone equally brightly for a time, it faded away. This article focuses on a small selection of those singers who once had a stellar career, but their music is less well known today. Do you remember any of the following?

- **Ronnie Hilton** his career briefly peaked in the mid-1950s, when he had nine Top 20 hits between 1954 and 1957, largely covers of American songs during that transition period between 78 and 45rpm records. His popularity, however, did not extend beyond these shores and his music is rarely played today. However, many years after his peak as a singer, he had a second career as a popular presenter of BBC Radio 2's 'Sounds of the Fifties Series'.
- **Alma Cogan** sang popular songs, often covers of American hits, in the 1950s and early 60s she was the highest paid female entertainer of her era. In 1953, whilst in the middle of recording "If I Had a Golden Umbrella", she broke into a giggle; she then played up the effect on later recordings and was thereafter dubbed the "Girl with the giggle (or sometimes chuckle) in her voice". One of the first UK singers to appear regularly on the early days of TV, this contributed to her topping the NME reader's poll as "Outstanding British Female Singer" four times between 1956 and 1960. However, her singing style rapidly became unfashionable in the musical revolution of the 'Swinging Sixties'.
- **Kathy Kirby** had a distinctive voice and to my mind, the looks of a British Marilyn Monroe. She was one of the biggest stars of the early to mid-sixties, with two-television series for the BBC called 'The Kathy Kirby Show'. She came second in the 1965 Eurovision song contest with the song 'I Belong' which also became a hit, and she also sang the theme tune to the iconic BBC TV series 'Adam Adamant lives.' Her career peaked in the sixties. Until his death in 1971, her manager was the well-known bandleader Bert Ambrose.
- **Frank Ifield** was best known for incorporating 'yodelling' into his music. I have a vivid memory as a young boy of standing in a neighbour's kitchen listening to him on the radio singing his signature song – 'I remember You'. In fact this British-Australian had four number one hits in the UK Singles Chart.
- **Mary Hopkins**, Welsh born, was one of the first artists to be signed to Apple Records, The Beatles' own record label. It is said that the model Twiggy saw Mary winning the ITV talent show 'Opportunity Knocks' and recommended her to Paul McCartney, who produced her debut single 'Those Were the Days' which became a number one hit in 1968 with huge worldwide sales. She then had several top ten hits before achieving second place in the 1970 Eurovision Song Contest. Although she continued to record music over the following decades her career peaked in the late sixties.

Sources: Wikipedia

Food for Fun Quiz

Compiled by Barry Liddle

The answers are in a separate document that accompanies this Newsletter.

1 If you walked into a fast-food restaurant and asked for a Whopper, where would you be?

- a) McDonalds
- b) Burger King
- c) Kentucky Fried Chicken
- d) Completely lost.

2 What is Dundee Cake?

- a) A white pudding served as part of a Scottish cooked breakfast
- b) A fairly rich Scottish fruit cake decorated with split almonds
- c) A type of Haggis produced in Dundee.
- d) A fruit cake fed with malt whisky from Dundee.

3 Why were sausages given the nickname - bangers?

- a) because *Bangers and Co* supplied all the sausages to the troops in WW1.
- b) because troops in WW1 thought they looked like small mortar shells.
- c) because in WWI, saltpetre was added as a flavouring which made the troops pass wind like a machine gun.
- d) because of food shortages in WW I, sausages were made with added water, that caused them to explode when cooked.

4 Kippers are smoked:

- a) Mackerel
- b) Herrings
- c) Pilchards
- d) Pollock

5 Where would you find the 'Rhubarb Triangle' of England?

- a) East Lancashire
- b) West Yorkshire
- c) North Devon
- d) South Kent

6 Devilled Eggs are:

- a) Eggs blessed by the Devil.
- b) Hard-boiled eggs that have been mashed together with curry powder or Tabasco Sauce and sprinkled with chilli flakes.
- c) hard-boiled eggs that have been shelled, cut in half, and filled with a paste made from the egg yolks mixed with other ingredients such as mayonnaise and mustard.
- d) raw eggs after their 'best before' date but before their 'use by' date.

7 What is a Stottie Cake?

- a) A traditional loaf from the North-East made with potatoes and flour.
- b) A flat round loaf that originated in the North- East of England.
- c) A northern version of a Scottish drop scone
- d) Any type of bread made without yeast

8 If you were dining in a French restaurant and ordered 'Fruit De Mer'. What would you receive?

- a) platter of seasonal fruits.
- b) a fruit compote
- c) platter of shellfish including oysters, clams, mussels, prawns and sometimes lobster or crab.
- d) a mixture of white fish in a cream and dill sauce

9 Eton Mess is:

- a) public school slang for 'school dinners'
- b) a traditional mixed meat casserole made popular by Eton College.
- c) a tradition at Eton College in which bread rolls are thrown about at meal times.
- d) a dessert consisting of a mixture of strawberries or other berries, meringue, and cream.

10 'Eggs Benedict' is a breakfast or brunch meal consisting of an English muffin topped with bacon or ham, a poached egg and one of the following:

- a) Velouté sauce
- b) Hollandaise sauce,
- c) Bechamel sauce
- d) Tomato sauce

11 Steak Tartare is:

- a) Steak served with a condiment made of mayonnaise, chopped pickles, capers, and herbs.
- b) Steak served with a tangy Steak sauce.
- c) Raw ground beef mixed with onions, capers, seasonings, and served with a raw egg yolk.
- d) Steak cooked in the traditional Hungarian way over an open fire.

12 If you were having a scone in Cornwall for afternoon tea, it would be traditional:

- a) to apply the jam first and then the clotted cream.
- b) to apply the jam but eat the cream separately with a spoon
- c) to apply the clotted cream first and then the jam.
- d) to create a sandwich with the jam and cream between the two halves of the scone.

13 The Galloping Gourmet is:

- a) the nickname given to former TV chef Keith Floyd.
- b) a series of American TV cooking shows starring Gordon Ramsey
- c) The name of a former TV cooking show featuring Graham Kerr.
- d) The name of a London Soho pub frequented by professional chefs.

14 What is a Spatchcock Chicken?

- a) an old male chicken, slow cooked with white wine and herbs until very tender.
- b) a chicken with its backbone removed, thus allowing it to be completely flattened for even cooking.
- c) a breed of chicken renowned for the quality of its meat.
- d) A chicken kept indoors and fed mainly on corn.

15 A Vegan diet is best described as:

- a) A plant-based diet that excludes animals, dairy products and eggs.
- b) A plant-based diet that includes dairy products, but excludes animals and eggs
- c) A plant-based diet that includes fish, but excludes animals, dairy products and eggs.
- d) A plant-based diet that excludes all animal and processed foods.

16 What is a Chiffonade?

- a) a protective apron used by chefs to protect their whites.
- b) a form of light delicate cooking often associated with poaching fish
- c) a slicing technique in which leafy green vegetables or flat-leaved herbs are cut into long, thin strips.
- d) any sauce in which the liquid is reduced to concentrate the flavour.

17 Delia Smith the TV cook and cookery writer is now better known as the joint majority shareholder with her husband, of which Football Club?

- a) Norwich City
- b) Bournemouth
- c) Southampton
- d) Brighton & Hove Albion

18 Croutons are:

- a) small shellfish
- b) The French name for Scampi
- c) Small pieces of fried or toasted bread used as a garnish for salads or soups.
- d) A type of hors d'oeuvres

19 What would most people do with the Giblets from a Chicken or Turkey?

- a) Coat them in flour, deep fry them and serve with chips & salad.
- b) Poach them with white wine and serve with noodles.
- c) Make gravy or soup.
- d) Boil them, remove the meat and make rissoles.

20 What is a Dab?

- a) A small flat saltwater fish belonging to the Place Family.
- b) The collective name for all varieties of Lentils
- c) A small freshwater fish
- d) A type of plumb

21 What is a Singin' Hinny?

- a) A Northumberland phrase for the sound a kettle makes when boiling.
- b) A griddle cake associated with Northumberland.
- c) A Northumberland phrase for a cook who sings while they work.
- d) A Northumberland phrase for the sound a mackerel makes when quickly fried.

22 Old fashioned 'Beef Tea' was traditionally used as:

- a) a cheap alternative to a roast dinner for poor people
- b) a food for invalids suffering from digestive problems, fever or weakness.
- c) a cure for Tuberculosis (TB)
- d) a rare alternative to vegetable-based soups

23 How would you describe 'Toad in the Hole'.

- a) A hot cheese-based sauce served over slices of toasted bread.
- b) Sausages wrapped in bacon, served with chicken or turkey.
- c) Sausages in Yorkshire pudding batter, usually served with onion gravy and vegetables.
- d) A British version of Escargot

24 What is Pumpernickel?

- a) a type of German salami cut into thin slices
- b) a type of German sausage from Bavaria
- c) a German snack made with sliced pork and sauerkraut.
- d) a German black rye bread sold ready cut in thin slices.

25 What are the main traditional ingredients of a Cornish Pasty?

- a) Beef, sliced or diced potatoes, carrots and onions.
- b) Beef, sliced or diced potato, swede (also known as yellow turnip) and onion.
- c) Lamb, sliced or diced potato, swede (also known as yellow turnip), carrots and onions.
- d) Leftover meat, sliced or diced potato, swede (also known as yellow turnip) and onion.

Down Memory Lane with the Spanish Group



Photo: Barry Liddle

Directory

List of Committee Members for 2023

Chair –

Roger Say

Vice Chair–

Wendy Borthwick

Secretary –

Phil Jefferies

Treasurer –

Cliff Cordiner

Membership Secretary –

Wendy Borthwick

Group Co-ordinator –

Pauline Williamson

Minutes Secretary –

Linda Sargent

I.T. Support (Website and Beacon) –

Phil Jefferies

Committee – Keith Alder; Irene Archer

Don Taylor.

Non- Committee Members

Newsletter Editor-

Barry Liddle

Interest Group Leaders

- **Archaeology/History Group.** Chris McLoughlin.
- **Board Games.** Irene Williams.
- **Bowls:** Ray Elliston.
- **Bridge:** Phil Jefferies.
- **Chess Group.** Roger Say.
- **Creative Writing Group.** Roger Say.
- **Family History:** Ray Elliston.
- **Film Group.** Contact Phil Jefferies.
- **Fun with Fabrics.** Ann Say
- **Natural History Group.** Group Leader role shared.
- **Photography for Fun Group.** Ray Elliston.
- **Quiz Team** John Campbell.
- **Reading Group** Andrea Reid
- **Shibashi Exercise Group.** Marjorie Reynolds.
- **'View to Vue'.** Roger Say.
- **Walking Group.** Keith Alder

Copy Wanted for This Newsletter

Articles, Short Stories, Interesting Photographs (with captions), Limericks & Poems.

All contributions to the next Newsletter are most welcome.

Copy deadline for the next issue is 20 April 2023.

Barry Liddle, Newsletter Editor