

Newsletter

Hartlepool & District u3a

Issue 73, June 2023



Comments from the Chair

We will be holding our 12th AGM on the 2nd of June starting at 2 pm and I look forward to seeing many of you there. Although we will not be having a guest speaker you will have the opportunity to look at most of the interest groups we have available to you after the AGM, followed by a fuddle. The fuddle is a social event where we all bring finger food to share with everybody and have a good chinwag. Tea and coffee will be on offer free of charge.

The AGM is your opportunity to see what our u3a has achieved during the past year, and whether you want to re-elect those members of the committee who are standing again. We are still looking for members to join the committee as we will be short of numbers due to present members coming to the end of their tenure. Being a member of the committee is not an onerous task: we meet for 2 hours eleven times a year (we don't meet in August) so it would not take up much of your time. You might even enjoy the experience! Have a chat with me or any other member of the committee if you would like any further information about what goes on behind the scenes.

The guest speaker for July will be Denis Fox, a renowned military and landscape artist who has given talks to many societies including u3as. The date will be July 7th starting at 2 pm.

Take care everybody.

Roger

The History of Boroughbridge

Chris McLoughlin.

If there was a competition for the smallest town with the longest history in England, Boroughbridge, just off the A1M and just a hours' drive from Hartlepool, would be in the running to be the winner.

Our Archaeology & History Group found this out in May when we undertook a walking tour of the town, thanks to the excellent guides supplied by Boroughbridge & District Historical Society.

Our hosts had arranged for us to base our walk at the Anchor Inn, just along from the site of the town Railway Station, one of Beeching's victims unfortunately, and we



(c) David House

were able to follow the route of the original Great North Road as we visited the site of the Battle of Boroughbridge in 1322 for starters and ended up at the Devil's Arrows, the enigmatic Standing Stones dating back 4000 years and probably part of the nearby Thornborough Henges.

In between we were treated to tales of the town starting from Roman times at nearby Aldborough with its connections to the Iron Age tribes of the area via the town in Viking and Middle Age times. Surprisingly, there is a canal at Boroughbridge linked to Ripon and it can also boast a busy Marina, standing as it does on the river Ure. The town also has a rich agricultural past, street names such as Horsefair revealed this, and the Crown Hotel was at one time a major coaching stop as the town lies halfway between Edinburgh and London.

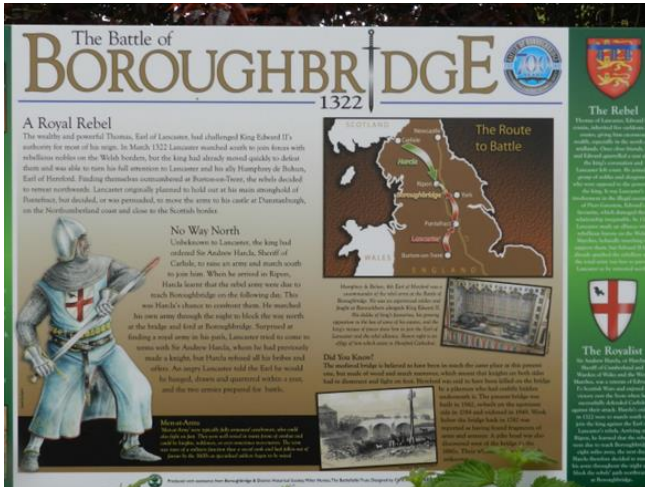
We were amused by the tale that prior to the Reform Act, the Duke of Newcastle held Aldborough and Boroughbridge as a rotten borough with 4 MPs. Considering that the two towns had 1300 souls and 4 MPs whilst Birmingham, Manchester and Leeds with populations of 50,000 had none, you can realise why the Parliamentary reforms were needed.

Although small, it was difficult to imagine the town during the last World War when 1000 troops were stationed at Boroughbridge Hall, the town of course lies just south of Leeming Airfield.

We found the Boroughbridge to be a lovely busy town and we were struck by the number of shops and pubs that keep going whilst in Hartlepool many of our shops have metal shutters giving the town a dead feel in contrast to vital market towns such as Boroughbridge.

A Photographic Essay of the Boroughbridge Field Trip

David House



My Cultural Life

Christine Robinson



Christine reflects on her membership of our u3a and the Interest Groups she has enjoyed.

I've been a member of the U3A for a few years now and I've made some good friends. Activities were curtailed by Covid so I now make celebration cards all alone and my spoken Spanish has almost disappeared. I am hoping to appreciate music again. soon.

Chris.

My favourite home cooked meal.

Well, to use a famous phrase, I didn't get where I am today by not enjoying food. It's hard to think of a favourite. Mince has loomed large in my life, in many ways, but I think I'll have to plump for a lovely turkey Christmas dinner, but with nothing in blankets! As a contrast, since my son has been married to a wonderful Korean girl, I have developed a taste for their delicious dishes. Kimchee, a spicy dish of fermented cabbage, is a staple of every meal. As well as food, I love the company of family, the conversation and the laughter.

My fantasy restaurant meal.

Moules frites with friends at a café/restaurant in a small town somewhere in France. We have enjoyed this often over the last 30-something years and I'm fantasising about eating it again this year!

My fantasy dinner party.

Queen Victoria would be fun, just to find out if she was ever amused about anything (such a miserable face). Jane Austen – did she ever meet Mr. Darcy? What does she think of the portrayals of her characters? Probably not a lot!

My favourite Album

I have a collection of albums from my younger days and no means of playing them – so much for the gramophone. The first one I bought was Please Please Me, by the Beatles of course in 1963. 60 years ago? Really? I was a mere child then..... I can't say it's my favourite either. So many CDs, so little time. At the moment I am enjoying Luke Evans CD 'At Last' which I bought last year. Some classic songs, well sung, not over-arranged. I also rediscovered Elkie Brooks a while back. She is still sensational.

My favourite memory of watching live music.

I don't do 'gigs' as such though the lovely Ms Brooks was terrific both times we saw her. The Royal Opera productions at Vue are a wonderful way to enjoy great music and great stars. Mme Butterfly had me in absolute bits a couple of years ago! At school, I was involved in Gilbert & Sullivan productions and I have managed to get the husband to accompany me to Darlington Hippodrome to see a couple. He enjoyed them too – result!

My favourite film.

Almost impossible. There are so many to choose from!

Gentlemen prefer blondes, Singing in the rain, anything with Fred and Ginger, The Cruel Sea (snorkers).

But the one I will watch every time it's on TV is 'It's A Wonderful Life'. Laughter and tears, sentimental tosh, but I don't care!

My favourite songwriter or composer

Composers: Beethoven, having been introduced to him by the music teacher at school. Not personally, you understand, just enough to wave to him at the bus stop.

Puccini, for Tosca and all that. We went to see him in Italy once, but he was out. Should have phoned ahead I suppose.

Songwriter: John Lennon, I guess, as the sound of my youth. His rock and roll album is a real treat.

My favourite TV comedy series.

Monty Python's Flying Circus. Were you expecting that? Well, it's not the Spanish inquisition...It wasn't always good but it gave us dead parrots, cheese shops, Michael Palin and Eric Idle.

My favourite TV drama series

Recently 'The Last Kingdom' based on Bernard Cornwell's Saxon saga. Lots of blood and snot everywhere and a very handsome young hero. What's not to like? See also Mr. Cornwell's Sharpe series, starring Mr. Bean. Not that one, the one from Yorkshire! Again lots of action and handsome chaps in green jackets and tight trousers. I like a bit of excitement; not stuff I have to think about too much.

My favourite radio programme.

Round the Horne, no question. Very funny, suggestive, drowning in double-entendres, so bold, especially remembering it was on in 1967/68 or thereabouts. Mr. Horne's 'dark brown' voice and Mr. Williams/Gruntfuttock/Rambling Syd Rumpo. Available on BBC Sounds, or on a CD in my cupboard!

My favourite book

'The Count of Monte Cristo' by Alexandre Dumas which I first read when I was 13. I read it so many times and it has everything. Adventure, betrayal, revenge, hardship, friendship, revenge, survival and more revenge. There's quite a lot of revenge, but no sex.

'Sharpe's Waterloo' by Bernard Cornwell which I have read several times. I know how it ends but I am ever optimistic that all the Chosen Men will survive! Not much revenge in it, but there's a bit of sex....

My guilty pleasure

I hate to admit it, but I don't have any pleasure that I feel guilty about. I read, I do cross stitch embroidery, I sing, I fiddle about on my tablet (that sounds a bit guilty-ish, but it's not), I try to answer University Challenge questions, I shout at the TV when certain people are on talking down to everybody. All these things give me pleasure, especially when accompanied by a large gin and tonic, so I won't feel guilty at all.

Almost forgot to add looking at Henry Cavill, actor. Just a pleasure, a pure pleasure.....

Introducing the 'New' Garden Group Liz Milbourn & Helen Eustace



The new Garden Group is now up and running with co leaders Liz Milbourn and Helen Eustace.

The initial meeting was on Monday 22nd May at the White House.

The monthly meetings will usually be on the 4th Friday afternoon of the month, it is hoped these meetings will comprise visits to various gardens in the area, and beyond, meetings at garden centres or

members own gardens etc.

The first visit will be on 30th June "The Hidden Gardens of Croft Road, Darlington" three rural gardens open under the National gardens scheme. Admission Â£6. The gardens are open from 1pm to 5pm. Please contact the group leaders if anyone wishes to go.

My Favourite Ice Cream Van Wendy Borthwick



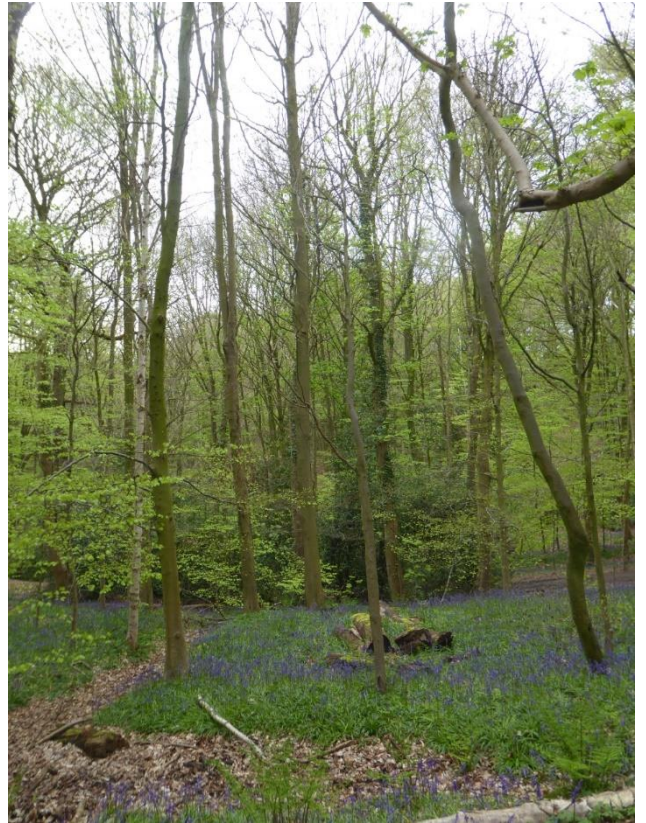
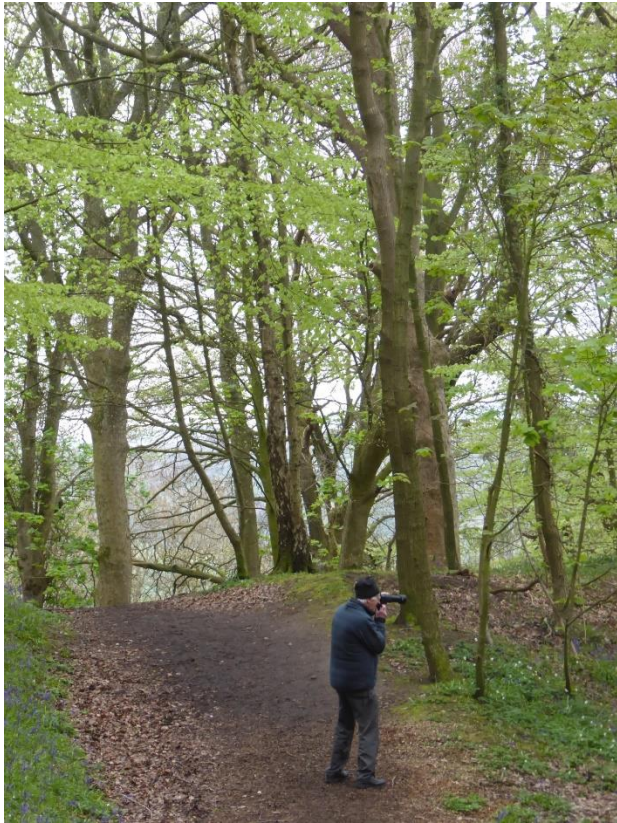
My favourite Ice Cream Van: I can't give you its exact location but as you travel along and within sight of RAF Fylingdales you will observe a decent sized pull-in off to the right and there will be the Ice Cream Van. In all the time I have travelled this road the Ice Cream Van has always been there. So pull off the road, when safe to do so, park up, purchase an ice cream and take in the view and if you're lucky you will hear the whistle and see the steam as the train comes out from amongst the trees heading to Whitby and if you stay long enough you will witness the return journey; a wonderful awe inspiring sight, never ceases to amaze.

Photographs © Wendy Borthwick

The loveliest time to visit is of course when the heather is in full bloom. When the sun is warm and the breeze is soft the heather comes into its own with its barely discernible perfume. Wandering between the clumps of heather using the well-worn tracks created by the sheep that freely roam and although never crowded, you meet folks from afar admiring the wonderful scenery. A lady with a French accent responding to a greeting travelled here every year from France with her husband to enjoy the peace, the views and scenery. An Australian accent wanting to see the heather from descriptions shared by earlier family who had emigrated but was surprised at how low growing it was expecting it to be much taller; always a pleasure to share.



The Photography Group Visit the Bluebell Wood at Durham
A Selection of Photographs from Martin Green



The woods surrounding the Botanic Gardens at Durham have a beautiful display of wild bluebells which are usually at their best in mid-May. Entry to the wood is free.

The Luncheon Group Jacky Armstrong

Thanks to everyone who came to our Coronation Celebration lunch at Hardwicke Hall Manor Hotel on Friday 19th May. The food was delicious, with very generous portions and a wonderful selection of vegetables. I won't name names, but there was a good demand for the speciality ice-cream sundaes.

Next Event

As we were finishing our lunch, the Afternoon Tea people were coming in. The Afternoon Tea at Hardwicke Hall is fantastic. So, guess what, I have now booked Afternoon Tea at Hardwicke Hall Manor Hotel for Thursday 20th July at 3 pm. The cost of the Tea with all homemade sandwiches, scones, cakes and trifle and tea or coffee is £14.95. If you would like a glass of bubbly with it, the cost is £16.95.

Booking Arrangements

If you would like to join us, please let Pauline (the Group Co-ordinator) know. There will be a deposit of £5 to secure your booking. I have booked for 20 people but may be able to book more if there is a demand.

Transport

I can recommend the Afternoon Tea, which, in my opinion, is the best in the area. We hope that you will join us. For those without access to a car, a taxi to and from Hardwicke Hall is £15 each way. It may be that you can share the cost with a friend. I apologise if this date is not convenient for you.

Down Memory Lane. The Bridge Group 2019



Misty May Morn Muse

Misty mid-May morning
Gentle breeze
Along the promenade
Steam rises from damp tarmac
Mirage like.
Herring gull sits aloof
Atop chimney pot
Surveying its domain.
Lo and behold
A swallow
Dramatically appears
First of the season
For this observer
Anyway.
Low tide
Occasional oyster catcher
Piping its presence
As it hurries along
Mayhap puzzling where
Its mates have gone.
Herring gull
Using pool of tidal water
For its ablutions.
Stop Listen to
The sea
Can go unnoticed
If one doesn't listen
To its message
You have to
To let it enter
Your consciousness.



Horizon covered in haze
No ships no boats
No Redcar
Somewhat eerie
Human life sparse
Except for those being
Taken a walk by their dogs.
Out of the mist
Appears a yacht
Marie Celeste?
No too small
More herring gulls
Completing washing rituals
In personal pools of water
Must be Sunday.
Others relaxing on the rocks
Drying themselves
Or resting
Or cogitating on what to eat
For the next meal.
Hmm Fish I expect
Leave to the sound
Of the sea
Telling its story
To all who care to listen.

Roger Say

Early Days

1936 is generally regarded as the beginning of TV broadcasting in Britain after several years of experimentation. But shortly after this, the BBC's single channel was suspended for the war years 1939-45. Broadcasting returned in 1946 but was suspended again in 1947 due to a national fuel crisis. At this stage TV was in its infancy and confined to the London area

National Coverage

Wider coverage began in 1949 with the opening of the Sutton Coldfield transmitter in the Midlands, followed in 1951 by a transmitter on the Yorkshire/ Derbyshire border - bringing TV coverage to the north. However TV ownership was still very low and radio continued to dominate popular culture. However, TV sales and ownership was given a massive boost in the lead-up to the 1953 Coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. Anyone who had a new TV set that year, became very popular with neighbours, family and friends.

Competition for the BBC

The next major development came in 1955 with the launch of ITV, thus breaking the BBCs monopoly on British broadcasting. Over the next few years several ITV regional companies emerged with our very own Tyne Tees being launched in 1959 -the same year as Anglia and Ulster TV.

The Swinging Sixties

TV then began to flourish in the 1960s. ITV established several more regional companies and by the end of the decade, regular colour television begins on BBC One and ITV. Several memorable programmes originated in the 1960s ITV's Coronation Street in 1960; BBC's 'That Was The Week That Was' in 1962; Doctor Who in 1963; Top of the Pops & Match of the Day in 1964; ITV's Saturday afternoon 'World of Sport' in 1965; in 1966 the legendary BBC play 'Cathy Come Home' as well as coverage of the football World Cup which England won for the first and only time. In 1967 Patrick McGoochan's cult television series The Prisoner debuts on ITV, along with News at Ten. The decade fittingly ends with the moon landing in the early hours of the morning by Apollo 11 in 1969.

1970s 'Golden Era' of Shared TV

In some ways the 1970s were the 'golden age' of television. There was mass ownership of television sets; the number of channels was very limited and so watching the same TV programmes was a shared experience with family and friends and the better programmes were watched by massive audiences. The scheduling of TV programmes was seen as a vitally important skill, particularly at Christmas time. Popular programmes in this decade include, Morecambe & Wise; the Mike Yarwood Show; The Two Ronnies; Fawlty Towers; The Sweeney; The Good Life; and The Goodies.

The Enterprising 1980s

The 1980s was an era of domestic TV expansion. In 1982 Channel 4 was launched together with its long running game show Countdown. In 1983 both BBC and ITV launched breakfast television as did TV am. In 1986 BBC One launched a full daytime service for the first time and Yorkshire TV become the first region to broadcast 24 hours a day, followed by all other regions by the end of 1988. At the end of the decade Sky Television Plc is launched and the House of Commons is televised for the first time. Programmes associated with the 1980s include: Only Fools and Horses; Dallas; Howards Way; appeals programmes such as Live Aid and Comic Relief; and finally soaps such as Neighbours and Crossroads.

The End of the 20th Century and The New Millennium

Television remained extremely popular in the 1990s and into the new millennium, but the way in which people watch TV changed. On the plus side flat screen technology has improved the viewing experience and secondly, there is now much greater choice for viewers and more programming for niche interests.

In 1997 Channel 5 became the fifth terrestrial channel and in 2002 Freeview was launched giving everyone access to multiple channels and for those able to afford a subscription over and above the licence fee, Sky, Virgin and BT offer an even greater range of channels. However, the flip side of greater choice has meant that the huge audiences of the 1970s is now a thing of the past and television has lost to some extent that shared sense of experience when choice was limited to only three or four channels.

There have also been rapid technological changes which have challenged the traditional way in which television was once viewed. The 'Golden Era of Television' was based on what is called 'linear' viewing. Which means you watched programmes provided by broadcasters in the order they were scheduled and at the time they were broadcast. TV guides such as Radio Times and TV Times (or your local evening paper)

informed the order of programmes each day. However, 'linear' TV is in terminal decline (except for sport and occasional 'national events') due to a number of factors:

- The first attack on 'linear' watching came with the introduction of VHS and DVD players in the 1980s and 90s which allowed TV programmes to be recorded and played back at a time of the owners' choice and pre-programmed VHS tapes and DVDs could be hired or purchased – so that films and other content could be watched at a time of your choosing –as an alternative to linear tv scheduling.
- Although in use before 2000, laptop computers, smart phones and tablet devices linked to the internet replaced VHS and DVDs and came into their own in the new Millennium and provide an ever-increasing alternative platform to traditional TVs and linear programming. So much so, that a significant number of people no longer watch TV at all.
- Improvements in TV technology and the introduction of Smart TVs have further dented the popularity of 'linear' TV. It is now possible to record TV programmes and watch them at any time and the availability of 'box sets' enable the viewer to 'binge' watch every episode of a TV series at a time of their choice.
- Traditional terrestrial broadcasters such as BBC and ITV are also part of the drive towards non-linear TV by having their own internet-based services on iPlayer and itvX which are accessible on all internet based electronic devices as well as traditional TVs.
- Streaming services such as Netflix, Prime Video, Apple TV, and Disney+ are proving very popular and can be accessed anytime on TV or all internet linked devices– again breaking down traditional 'linear' TV viewing.
- The role out of large flat screens and smart TVs have boosted their use for video games.

Conclusion

Televisions are likely to remain popular for the foreseeable future, boosted by the development of flat screen technology which brings the movie screen into the home, but the way TV is watched continues to change and we are seeing the demise of 'linear' TV watching.

Sources: Wikipedia the free online encyclopedia.

TV for Fun Quiz - Questions

Compiled by Barry Liddle

1 Albert Tatlock was a fictional character in which British television soap opera?

- a Brookside
- b Crossroads
- c Emmerdale
- d Coronation Street

2 Who Played P.C. 'Fancy' Smith in Z Cars?

- a Michael Gambon
- b Brian Blessed
- c Charles Dance
- d Gareth Hunt

3 The opening titles of this comedian's comedy show featured him at a shop window, raising one arm and a leg to give the impression of levitating. Who was the comedian?

- a Tony Hancock
- b Harry Worth
- c Norman Wisdom
- d Tony Hancock

4 'The Good Old Days' light entertainment programme ran for 30 years. Where was the programme recorded?

- a Leeds
- b Sheffield
- c Birmingham
- d British West Hartlepool

5 Which famous comedian has the immortal words, 'I told you I was ill', carved onto his tombstone?

- a Stanley Baxter
- b Arthur Askey
- c Bob Monkhouse
- d Spike Milligan.

6 Who sang the Dad's Army theme tune 'Who Do You Think You Are Kidding, Mr Hitler'?

- a Bud Flanagan
- b Charlie Chester
- c Tommy Trinder
- d Max Miller

7 Which comedian is best remembered for his catchphrase – 'Hello, my darlings'!

- a Peter Glaze
- b Larry Grayson
- c Charlie Drake
- d Lily Savage

8 Who was the first actor to play 'Doctor Who'.

- a Patrick Troughton
- b Tom Baker
- c William Hartnell
- d Jon Pertwee

9 Who shot JR Ewing in the American TV series 'Dallas'?

- a Kristin Shepard
- b Bobby Ewing
- c Cliff Barnes
- d Pamela Barnes.

10 Who devised and presented the TV talent show 'Opportunity Knocks'?

- a Michael Miles
- b Eamonn Andrews
- c Hughie Green
- d Keith Chegwin

11 Which chat show host asked Debbie Magee, "What first attracted you to the millionaire Paul Daniels"?

- a Dame Edna Everage
- b Cilla Black
- c Mrs Merton
- d Joan Bakewell

12 Which TV Chef's contract was terminated by the BBC because of their rudeness and condescension in evaluating a menu proposed by a member of the public on a TV show?

- a Gordon Ramsey
- b Fanny Cradock
- c Gary Rhodes
- d Graham Kerr – The Galloping Gourmet.

13 The Forsyte Saga was a 1967 BBC television adaptation of John Galsworthy's series of The Forsyte Saga novels. Who played the lead roles of Soames and Irene?

- a Kenneth Moore and Nyree Dawn Porter
- b Eric Porter and Nyree Dawn Porter
- c Kenneth Moore and Susan Hampshire
- d Eric Porter and Susan Hampshire

14 'Watch with Mother' was a cycle of children's programmes broadcast by BBC Television from 1952 until 1975 – with a different programme for each day of the week. Which one of these programmes is the imposter?

- a Picture Book
- b Andy Pandy
- c Flower Pot Men
- d Postman Pat
- e The Woodentops

15 TV presenters Ant and Dec first met while working on which children's drama programme?

- a Wacaday
- b Byker Grove
- c Rainbow
- d Waterloo Road

16 Eastenders is set in which fictional London Borough?

- a Worlingham
- b Bow Bells
- c Welford
- d Walford

17 All the following regularly hosted 'Sunday Night at the London Palladium' except one. Who is the odd one out?

- a Tommy Trinder
- b Bruce Forsyth
- c Norman Vaughn
- d Leslie Crowther

18 'The Fugitive' was popular 1960s American crime drama in which Dr Richard Kimble was wrongfully convicted of his wife's murder. Who was the real killer?

- a the invisible man
- b the one-legged man
- c one- armed man
- d one-eyed man

19 'Last of the Summer Wine' is set and filmed in and around which Yorkshire Town?.

- a Helmsley
- b Grosmont
- c Holmfirth
- d Keighley

20 Which puppet act famously 'assaulted' Michael Parkinson on his chat show?

- a Roger De Courcey and 'Nookie Bear'
- b Rod Hull and 'Emu'
- c Terry Hall and 'Lenny the Lion'
- d Keith Harris and 'Cuddles the Monkey'.

Answers in a separate document accompanying this Newsletter.

Directory

List of Committee Members for 2022-2023

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
Andrea Reid.

Roles of 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.
- **Garden Group.** Liz Milbourn, Helen Eustace
- **Natural History Group.** Margaret Andrews,
Irene Archer, Beryl Turnbull.
- **Photography for Fun Group.** Ray Elliston.
- **Quiz Group** 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 June 2023.

Barry Liddle, Newsletter Editor