

Newsletter

Hartlepool & District u3a

Issue 74, July 2023



Comments from the Chair

Strictly speaking I should not be writing this as the Chair, as we have not yet had our committee meeting to decide the committee positions. You elect the committee at the AGM and the committee decides who does what. By the time you read this, these matters will hopefully have been decided. I would like to give a big thank you to those committee members who have had to stand down as they have reached the end of their tenure. We are still on the lookout for new committee members so please come forward, as we are shorthanded at present.

Thank you to everyone who attended the AGM last month, and I hope you enjoyed the fuddle as much as I did. We all get the chance to chat with members who we might know by sight but not had the chance to speak to them. Thanks also to the group leaders who gave us all a chance to see what happens in their groups and give us the opportunity to join them. Although we are one of the smaller u3as we do have a large number of interest groups from which to choose from, and I believe we have even more groups on the horizon. We are spoilt for choice!

Our next meeting is on Friday the 7th of July starting at 2 pm. The guest speaker is Denis Fox who is a well-known military and landscape artist, and I think we are in for a treat. He has been recommended by other u3as in our region, and one of his paintings is of a hurricane about to crash land on Hartlepool golf course on August 15th, 1940. I understand he will be bringing it along. I look forward to seeing you there.

In the meantime, enjoy the summery days.

Take care.

Roger

Gardens and Gardening Group

Liz Milbourn

The new Gardening Group held a plant swap/giveaway at the u3a AGM on June 2nd, this went really well, so there are plans to do another one in the future.



Group Co-leader Liz Milbourn with some of the plants at the plant swop.

The Gardens and Gardening Group will now meet on the 4th Monday afternoon of the month, whenever possible.

The first planned visit for the Gardens and Gardening group was on Saturday 17th June at the Stokesley Open Gardens. Twenty-three gardens were open to the public, with proceeds going to the Teesside Hospice. It was a lovely day and there were some very interesting plants, sculptures and even scarecrows.



Garden Group members Wendy Costello and Margaret Boddy sitting with the 'King and Queen'!

The next meeting will be held on Monday afternoon 24th July and u3a garden group member, Margaret Boddy, has kindly offered to host this in her garden in West Park.



Members of the Gardens and Gardening Group

Please contact the joint group leaders Liz Milbourn & Helen Eustace, if you wish to join the new group and if you would like to go to the July meeting.

Up-Date on Interest Groups

Pauline Williamson

Hello, I just want to give you all a quick update about some groups which have restarted and some which are brand new. You are welcome to come and try them to see if they are your cup of tea. Please check the website to make sure they are operating on the day and time stated as some groups may vary.

One group in particular that will have a varied day and time is the **Gardens and Gardening Group**. The general meeting time will be 4th Monday afternoon at prearranged locations. However, this may change depending on the group activity. Visits to various gardens of stately homes have been planned as well as having a nosey around other members' gardens and garden centres. Other events will include demonstrations, talks and plant swaps and sales. Sounds blooming good!

Art Appreciation is a brand-new group starting soon. There is no leader as such, but Andrea has offered to lead the first session. The plan is for various paintings to be discussed, famous works as well as the not so renowned works will be highlighted. Various techniques and materials may be displayed such as oils, water colours and pastels. Visits to art galleries and presentations will also be considered.

Music Group is restarting on the 1st Thursday of the month at 10 am at The People's Centre so our first meeting will be 7th July. Steve Cole, our new music leader, has said that everyone is welcome regardless of their musical ability and aptitude. These sessions will be interactive and will develop and evolve to suit the groups' preferences and interests. All Steve asks is that members keep an open-minded interest in music as a form of communication, respect others' views and opinions and be positive. Above all enjoy yourselves!

The **Tuesday Book Club** is another reading group but with a difference. It will be held on the 4th Tuesday of each month in the library at the Central Hub at 2pm starting at the 22nd August. We will be reading some of the books you may have read as children which may bring back a few happy memories, and also reading a few which you may not have read. But even so, all will be welcome to take a trip down memory lane, reading and discussing the good old classics such as Jane Austen.

Body, Mind and Spirit is a new group which Marjorie is setting up. It will be held at her house but time and date are yet to be arranged. This is a mindfulness group, looking at complementary therapies which will cover topics such as food as medicine, meditation, movement and self-help strategies including aromatherapy and quick pick me ups using pressure points and self-massage.

The Cycling Group is at the stop sign at the moment until the charity supporting this venture have settled into their new premises. At this moment, there is not a lot of interest in this group, however, Andrea has offered to enrol in the Groups Leaders Cycling Certification

course in readiness for the future. Bikes and equipment will be provided for each outing. So, after this, it should be a green light to go from there.

The Family History Group is still awaiting development so watch this space!

Lawn Bowls has restarted at Eldon Grove Bowling Club and meets at 2pm every Wednesday. Anyone, no matter what their level of skill and experience is welcome, however flat shoes and no trainers are a must. The cost is £2.50 per session. If you haven't tried it before, you may be bowled over with excitement!

Finally, a **cream tea** has been organised at Hardwicke Hall Manor (Blackhall) on Thursday 20th July at 3pm. If you would like to enjoy an afternoon with fine company, fine surroundings and fine food please let me know. Each booking will need a £5 non-refundable deposit which needs to be paid before 13th July. A taxi to Blackhall with 23 taxis is approximately £15 each way from one address; additional pickups are a little more. For further details of taxi prices please contact a local taxi firm.

The afternoon tea consists of the Chef's selection of sandwiches on white & wholemeal breads. Then fruit scones with fresh cream & strawberry jam and lemon drizzle cake. Along with some fresh fruit meringues, chocolate éclairs and mini cheesecake. The cost per person is £19.95.

Down Memory Lane: Archaeology/History Group's Field Trip to Sunderland and Chester-le-Street.



My Cultural Life

Cliff Cordiner



I have been a member of the u3a for just over a year but have met some wonderful people and enjoy the variety of interest groups. I am a member of the Shibashi, Quiz, and History groups, and have just joined the newly formed Gardening group.

My favourite home cooked meal.

Cooking for one is a chore and I don't enjoy it. My late wife was the expert. One of my favourites was her home-made Lasagne with a secret ingredient (never did find out what it was) followed by her legendary chocolate cake.

My fantasy restaurant meal.

My real-life fantasy meal, and without doubt the best we ever had was at the Michelin restaurant Ana E Bruno in Berlin which is no longer there. A casualty of covid. I have no idea what we ate as we let the chef devise the menu and recommend the wine for each of the five courses. So I will go with my second choice based on an Auberge near Dol de Bretagne. Great food, great views, and great memories. For starters, grilled goats' cheese on a toasted baguette drizzled with honey on a bed of salad leaves. A main course of Vietnamese duck, cooked with garlic and ginger, star anise, and red chillies. All served on a bed of Vietnamese sticky rice. For dessert my all-time favourite Baked Alaska filled with Strawberries and cream and soaked in Amaretto liqueur.

My fantasy dinner party.

I would start by inviting Brian Cox (professor of particle physics and one time pop star, not the actor). I have had the privilege of attending his lectures and he makes a complex subject seem simple. Afterwards we could retire to the garden and he could point out the various constellations. Next would be Susie Dent. I have always been fascinated by the origin of words and phrases and how language has evolved. She would be a great guest at the dinner table. Next would be Derren Brown. I love his shows and enjoyed reading his book "Tricks of the

Mind” and often refer to it. It explains the techniques he uses for memorising long lists. I am looking forward to reading his “Book of Secrets” in which he sets out to show that it is in those moments that we face adversity that we can find life’s most lasting rewards. As an added bonus, if the dinner party is a disaster he can hypnotise us and make us forget it ever happened.

My favourite album.

I have a lot of albums of all sorts of genres so it is hard to choose just one. The Coldplay albums “A Rush of Blood To The Head” and “Mylo Xyloto” are ones I play a lot. I would love to see them live. The album I keep coming back to is Hotel California which is a bit like a comfort blanket, so I guess it must be that.

My favourite memory of watching live music.

I once saw Slade at Hull University with the then unknown UB40 as support shortly after we had got engaged. It was the middle of June but they still sang Merry Christmas Everybody! My favourite memory is of watching Lindisfarne in one of their Christmas concerts. Happy days.

My favourite film.

I never tire of watching “The Great Escape” hoping that just once Steve McQueen will make the jump on his motorcycle. For pure escapism, comedy, and the best car chase ever, my favourite film is the 1969 film “The Italian Job”, although the 2003 remake isn’t bad. This is what sparked my obsession with the Mini Cooper. From the modern era “Silence of the Lambs” and the “Saw” series are among my favourites.

My favourite songwriter or composer.

It is hard to pick just one. Joni Mitchell is certainly up there. Big Yellow Taxi still sounds fresh. Peter Townshend wrote some great songs including my all-time favourite Baba O’Reilly. Carole King has a song for every occasion, is a natural talent, and her music stands the test of time. But my favourite is Phil Collins simply because his music invokes many happy memories. My favourite classical composer is Smetana. In my schooldays I played in the School Orchestra and my favourite piece was, and still is Vltava. It is really expressive, vividly describing the flow of the river from its source to the sea.

My favourite TV comedy series.

I am not a fan of modern comedians, although I like Dave Gorman with his clever power-point presentations and Venn diagrams. The best comedy moments have to be Del Boy falling through the bar in Only Fools and Horses, and the Two Ronnies four candles sketch. My favourite TV comedy series has to be Cheers which I still find funny.

My favourite TV drama series.

I really enjoyed "The Queen's Gambit". It has everything with great acting and a great story covering the themes of adoption, drug addiction, alcoholism, and the triumph of the underdog. "The Undoing" with Nicole Kidman and Hugh Grant is a twisty whodunit with a mix of murder, mystery, psychological thriller, and relationship drama. It is based on the book "You Should Have Known" by Jean Hanff Korelitz. Usually the book is better than the screen version, but this is the other way round. Anything with Anthony Hopkins is going to be good so the Sci-Fi series "Westworld" based on the film of the same name is another favourite.

My favourite radio programme.

Radio hasn't been the same since the days of crackly pirate radio. I don't sit and listen to radio much, although it is almost always on for background noise. When I do listen it is usually to sport related programmes.

My Favourite book.

Is it wrong to say that my favourite book is "A Borrowed Past" which my wife wrote? I always liked Alistair Maclean novels and once read "Where Eagles Dare" in one sitting. John Le Carre is another of my favourite reads. I love a good spy novel and he was the master. I don't tend to re-read books but "To Kill a Mocking Bird" is a classic which I first read for my O-Levels, and is still relevant today.

My guilty pleasure.

Nothing! If it gives you pleasure why feel guilty. It's not the years in your life that count, it's the life in your years. Life's too short.

Limericks

Now that our King has been crowned
And well-wishers' toasts have been downed
 May the reign of our King
 Much prosperity bring
With happiness oft to be found

Phil Jefferies

My garden's the place for a beer
When warmth comes at this time of year
 At the end of the day
 It's a wonderful way
To wind down as evening draws near

Phil Jefferies

Notice Board



The 'Notice Board' is an open space for news items, messages and notices of forthcoming events. The notice Board is for the use of all u3a members.

To display a notice, contact Barry Liddle, Newsletter Editor



Music Group

A new music group will start at 10.00am until 12.00 on Thursday 06.07.23 at the People's Centre. These sessions will cover various aspects of music and require only an interest in learning more about the subject. The content will develop over time according to the preferences of the group.

Regards, Steve Cole

Archaeology/History Group. Message from Chris McLoughlin.

There will be two events in July....
July 6th. The Group is on an away day by train to visit the Port of Whitby with its many seafaring connections and especially our shared links with St Hilda and the founding of the twin monastery of Hartlepool & Whitby.

July 22nd a morning walk for the Group around the village of Greatham, long part of the Borough of Hartlepool, but with unique historical connections with the Bishopric of Durham.

Notice of Future Monthly General Meetings

- Our next general monthly meeting is on Friday the 7th of July starting at 2 pm. The guest speaker is Denis Fox who is a well-known military and landscape artist.
- There will be no general monthly meeting in August as the hall at St Josephs will be closed.

Roger Say



Giant Pop-up Ceilidh

Hartlepool Folk Festival has been commissioned to create a mega-ceilidh for the Tall Ships Race in July! Anyone can go to the Ceilidh held at the Tall Ships Festival on Saturday 8th July at 2pm.

Ceilidh dancing is easy to pick up, and there's always a caller to guide you through the dances. Participants who attended ceilidh workshops in early June will also be on hand to help. The Giant Pop-up Ceilidh will be a fun, social and lively part of the Tall Ships experience, and it would be good if members of the u3a could go along and support this free event.

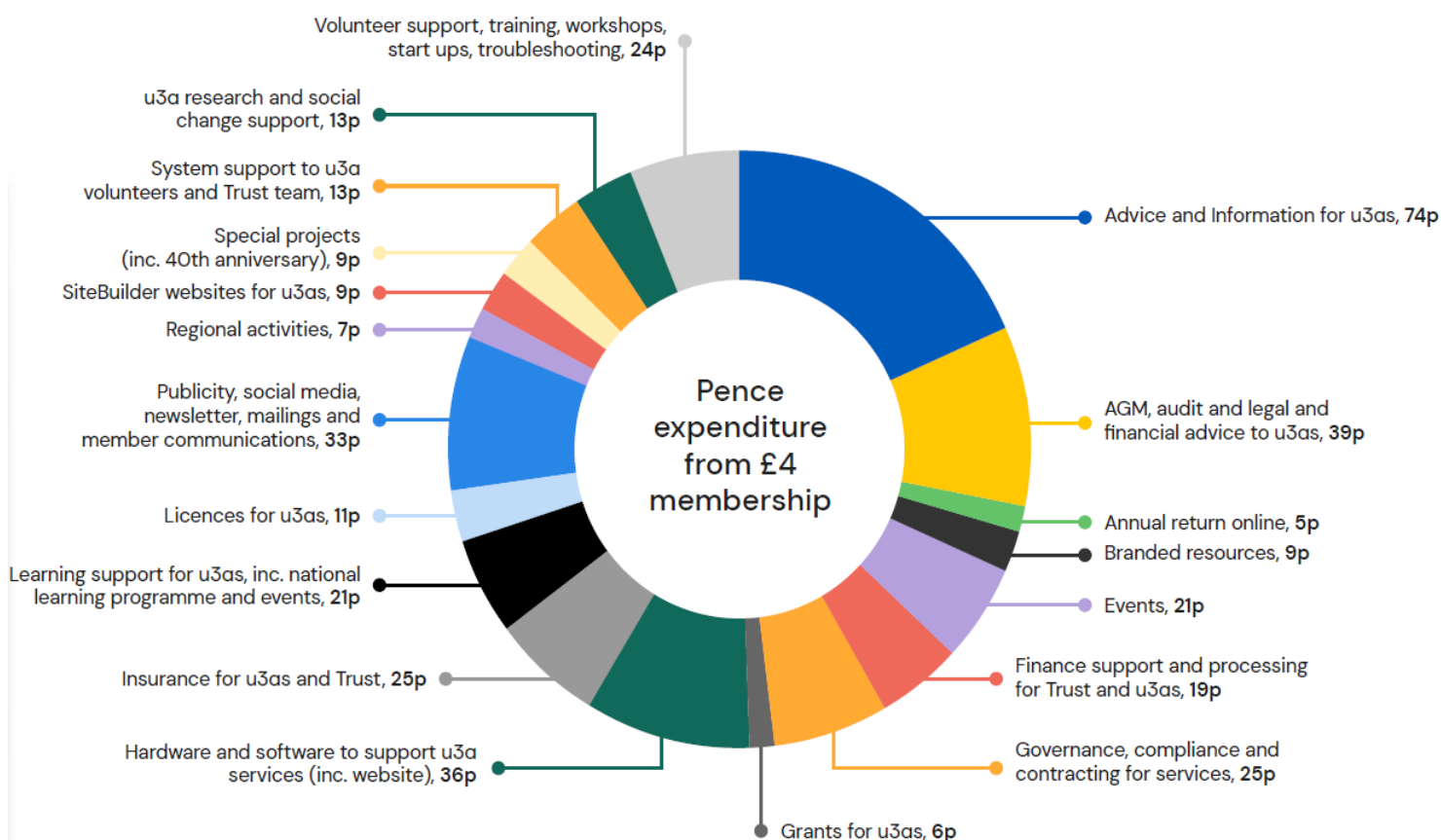
Hope to see you there,
Pauline Williamson

Notice Board continued



A Message from Chris Cordiner About the 'Third Age Trust '

As you will know every u3a is affiliated to the Third Age Trust (TAT). Each u3a receives an annual charge from them based on the number of members they have. The current charge from TAT is £4 per member and we thought you might like to know how they use that money. The chart below illustrates all the services they provide and a breakdown of the £4 charge. It shows how much hard work goes on behind the scenes and I am sure you will agree is good value for money.



Growing Peaches in Hartlepool!!

David House has sent me a set of photographs showing a bounteous crop of peaches growing in his garden on 22 June. This is the first year he has achieved this feat and wonders if climate change is a factor. He asks, "Has anyone else in Hartlepool grown peaches in their garden." Well done David.

A Lexicon of Local Words

Barry Liddle

I grew up on the Central Estate in the 1950s/60s, which can best be described as an urban village connecting Hartlepool to West Hartlepool. A close-knit community of largely working-class people. I was aware even then that my family, friends and neighbours used certain words and phrases that were largely confined to the town and its environs or even just the local neighbourhood and were not part of the standard English spoken on the radio or TV. I'm no expert, but technically those words and phrases are probably defined as a mixture of colloquialisms and slang. But I'm not going to get hung-up on definitions, instead I'm going to give some examples. All of these words were common when I was young and were spoken in the local dialect which is a tricky thing to define but geographically lies between Newcastle Geordie and the North Yorkshire Accent.

Please note that the informal nature of these words makes it extremely difficult to be sure of their definitive spelling.

Baccy: Tobacco. Used by pipe smokers or in cigarette roll-ups. My dad smoked a brand called 'Ogden's Walnut Sliced' in his pipe. Some old timers rejected ready sliced tobacco and would only buy their baccy as a block and would then use a penknife to cut off thin shavings—because they believed it stayed fresher and more importantly would go further.

Bairn: Generic name for a small child e.g. 'where's the bairn?'

Bobby Dazzler: Refers to something that is outstanding, bright coloured and often garish.' E.g. that is a bobby dazzler of a hat you are wearing'.

Brazent Fond: Someone who is cheeky, bold and lacking in shame.

Cack Handed: Someone who is clumsy or uncoordinated when faced with completing a physical task.

Canny: To be called a 'canny lad' or a 'canny lass' was really a term of approval and affection. It was used by both sexes.

Champion: As in how you are doing? – answer 'Champion!'

Chuddy: Chewing Gum.

Claggy: This refers to something that is very sticky. For example, when we used to go to Joe Buckle's barber shop for a haircut on the Central Estate, he always gave you a 'claggy' - normally some form of sticky 'gobstopper' or 'bullseye' from a large jar he kept for young customers. You tried not to choose one with a hair attached to it. Nice man Joe Buckle, he previously worked with my grandfather Joggler Robinson.

Clarty: means muddy. After playing football in the mud on Spion Cop, ‘your boots would be all clarty’.

Clatterer: In our family at least, anyone who made a sudden noise or dropped something on a hard floor was called a clatterer.

Coble: a small flat bottomed fishing boat common in the North-East.

Cozzy: Swimming Costume. I remember as a boy having a blue hand knitted woollen ‘cozzy’ which used to absorb water, get really heavy and would slide down my legs as I left the sea. It was amusing as a 6-year-old but imagine the horror if I’d been 16!

Cuddy Whiffer: Someone who was left-handed. With hindsight I was probably a cuddy whiffer, but like many other youngsters of my generation and earlier, we were encouraged to write with our right hand at school. Only with hindsight did I realise the significance of the repeated calls from my granddad Liddle to use my right hand when making something out of wood in his workshop.

Dodo: This is not an extinct flightless bird; it is a common word used to describe a ‘Dummy’ used to pacify babies.

Doorsey: An individual knock-out competition played with a football in the back lane. Each of several players would adopt a back door as their goal. The collective aim of the game was to score 3 goals in the other back doors – thus eliminating those persons from the game, whilst defending your own door, until only one person was left as the winner.

Dut: A knitted woolly hat, preferably in Hartlepool United colours of blue and white bands.

Flamer: A ‘flamer’ was someone who was being cheeky or naughty. My grandfather used to call my mother a ‘Flamer up the back’ when she was little, because she was naughty out of sight.

Flowerpot: A term of endearment to small children.

Gill: A Gill pronounced ‘Jill’ is by definition five fluid ounces or a quarter of a pint. Many years after leaving the Central Estate, when I started drinking beer, I was constantly advised by my parents to just have a ‘jill’ of beer on a night out. By that I think they meant half a pint. But I ask you, how could an 18-year-old rugby player on a night out with his mates be expected to nurse half a pint all night!

Grey Lady: A ghostly figure reputedly seen by generations of youngsters in the grounds of St Hilda’s Church.

Hooky Mat: A Hooky Mat was a home-made mat or rug. It was made from small pieces of recycled cloth & clothing before the concept of re-cycling had even been invented. The backing was made of hessian and a small tool was used to push the fabrics into place.

Itchybay: a game played by young girls of my mother's generation.

Kidder: A friendly way of addressing a younger member of the family, associate or stranger.

Mafted: Too hot, as in 'I'm mafted'.

Mash-Tin: A form of teapot made from enamelled metal with a lid which also served as a cup. It was circular, about 5 inches wide at the base, narrower at the top, and was about 8-10 inches in height. I remember seeing hundreds of men cycling home from Richies at the end of the working day, each with a mash-tin swinging from their handlebars.

Mucky Mixture: A mixture of cheap sweets. As kids my brother and I used to be given an upmarket version as a treat on Saturday, which we called a 'Lucky Bag'.

Nark: An irritating person who instigated trouble.

Nixey Push: Means having no money.

Nowt: Means nothing. E.g. 'I've got nowt!'

Panacalty: A type of casserole, popular in this area, made in our family from corned beef, root vegetable and sliced onions and potatoes.

Pan Crack: Threat of retribution.

Pet Lamb: Term of endearment for a young child within the family.

Pit Yacker: Someone who was born or lived in the colliery villages just to the north of Hartlepool. The term was used in both a friendly and critical way.

Ploot: means to remove the innards of a chicken or turkey.

Plodging: Was something you did in the bracing north-sea or at the paddling pool at old Hartlepool. You were plodging when wading in the water, usually no higher than your knees.

Pog-up: Meaning can you help me climb up something by providing physical leverage.

Put-Off: A quickly assembled meal on a busy day.

Ragtime: Improvised dessert in which a scoop of ice-cream is sandwiched between two digestive biscuits.

Richies: Common local name for 'Richardsons Westgarth Engineering Co Ltd' – maritime engineers. One-time major employer in the town.

Sandshoes: Cheap white canvas-style trainers for the summer. We used to get a new pair as our feet grew but to keep them looking good for as long as possible, a watery white cream was applied from a tube with a sponge top from time to time, to hide the dirt.

Scraps: Small pieces of surplus batter given away for free on request, when purchasing a bag of chips.

Sea-Coal: a mixture of coal dust and coal nuggets found on local beaches. It was mainly commercially collected, but I remember raking bags of it from Spion Cop beach with my dad and grandad when times were harsh or when the coalmen were on strike. We put the sea coal into hessian bags and placed them between the V-shaped frame of a bicycle with one placed on the crossbar – which we then pushed home. Never sure whether the sea-coal came from a thin seam under the sea, or from spoil dumped in the sea from the collieries just north of the town - or both.

Sea Fret: Technically a 'Sea fret' is a fine mist or 'fog like' front moving inland from the sea. It is caused by warm air condensing over the sea. Living on the Central Estate, we were well placed to experience this weather event.

Shanks's Pony: The poor man's mode of transport – i.e. walking.

Skew Whiff: Means something is not level or lop- sided.

Spelk: a tiny fragment of wood or other material becoming lodged under the skin.

Stottie Cake: Flat round loaf originating from the North-East.

Tab: Is a cigarette, and a 'tab end' is what is left of a smoked cigarette.

Tartars: walking away, you might say to a toddler 'Let's go tartars'.

Tash: A moustache, found mainly but not exclusively on the upper lips of men.

Water Bite: In the 1930s my mam and her school friends used to swim regularly in the 'open air' outdoor swimming pool at the Headland. Afterward, if they had a penny or ha'penny they would all go for a 'water bite', i.e. something to eat.

West Docker: Resident of West Hartlepool.

White Horses: The white tops of waves rolling in from the sea.

Wim-Wams: If my brother and I pestered our mam for what we were going to have for tea (i.e. evening meal) she would always reply 'wim-wams' on toast.

Directory

List of Committee Members for 2022-2023. The New Committee for 2023-24 has yet to be agreed.

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 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 July 2023.

Barry Liddle, Newsletter Editor