

Newsletter

Hartlepool & District u3a

Issue 78, November 2023



Comments from the Chair

We are well into autumn now and there is a definite chill in the air. Storm Babet has come and gone and we await the appearance of the next one which has been named Ciaran. When this appears we cannot be sure but I can tell you with some certainty that our next speaker is going to be Andy Hampson, a police officer with NEROCU: North East Regional Organised Crime Unit. He will be giving us a basic Fraud Prevention presentation with some interaction so we had better be on our best behaviour!

On Wednesday October 18th I attended the National AGM which was being held in Milton Keynes. Like most of the other 430 delegates I did not attend in person but participated via Zoom. I can report that our national finances are in good health. The main source of income is via membership subscriptions and the national body is looking at ways to encourage the next generation to join while continuing to expand learning opportunities for all our members. Many of these opportunities are online and I strongly encourage all of you to look at the free courses that are available to us all. I will send out monthly bulletins to let you know what is on offer.

I look forward as always to seeing many of you at our next general meeting which will be on Friday November 3rd. In this day and age scams are so rife it will be great to be given information and tips about how to avoid being caught ourselves.

Can I remind everyone that tea coffee and biscuits are available after the meeting at the incredibly cheap price of 50p. Definitely no scam there but a good chance for a chat and a cuppa.

Take care everyone.

Roger

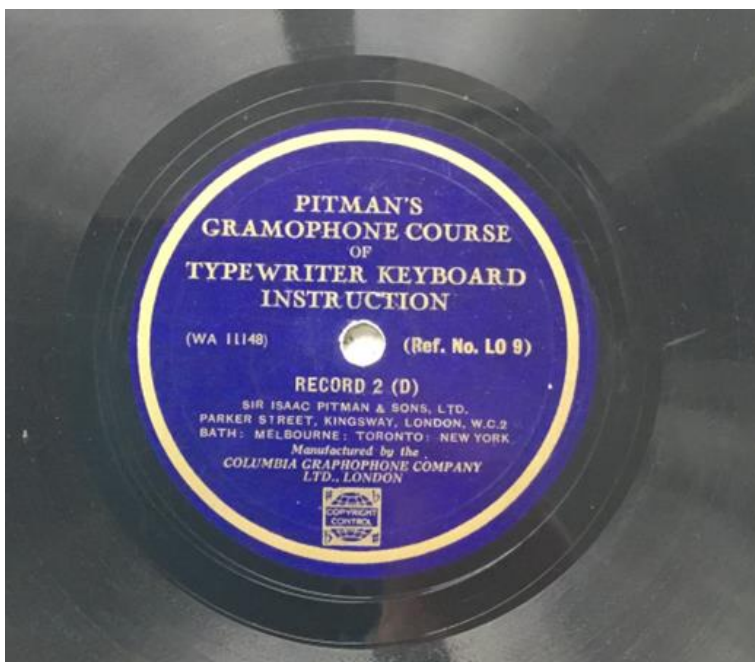
A True Story Featuring William Tell

Jacky Armstrong

I like to have a leisurely breakfast on a Saturday morning, listening to Alan Titchmarsh on Classic FM. As I am a multitasker, I am often reading my Newspaper at the same time. I was alerted at one point to Alan playing the William Tell overture by Rossini. It was the last opera that Rossini wrote. I vaguely remember it from school as the story of a peasant who annoys his master and as a punishment was told to shoot an apple off his son's head. Not a very nice thing to have to do, even worse for his son. I am not sure if the Lone Ranger came galloping through to save the day, but it reminded me of William Tell being the focus of my life when I was learning to type! The younger readers amongst you are probably thinking that I am making this up, but no. I will explain.

After leaving the High School, I went to Tunstall Court Annexe to study secretarial studies. My father thought this would be the best future for me throughout life! In those days, not many women continued to work through marriage and pregnancy. How things have changed.

We were introduced to our manual typewriter. A big, heavy, brute of a thing. It had a qwerty keyboard and a long carriage with a handle, which you swiped across to get to the next line of your paper. But this was no ordinary qwerty keyboard, not even an M & S keyboard! It had blank keys. You were not allowed to look at the keys or your fingers. You had to look at your copy piece placed on the right-hand side of your desk. Placing your fingers on the keys starting on the middle row from the left a s d f, then the right, from the little finger, l k j. These were the home keys and every other key was accessed from these home keys. You had to strike the keys to get the mechanism to work. A bit like a piano.



Now, where does William Tell come into this you might ask. To get the correct rhythm of striking the keys, the teacher would call out the letter and you would hit the key. Then, she would get the gramophone out and play William Tell. At first it was very slow. You hit the keys on each beat. At the end of the line a little man, with a wonderful clipped English accent, would say 'carriage return'. Everyone at this stage

swiped the lever to get on to the next line. As you progressed, over a period of several weeks, the music became quicker, even quicker than The Lone Ranger dashing through.

When we transitioned to computers at the college where I worked, we had to clean out all the cupboards of unnecessary out-of-date things. We had reels and reels of red and black ribbons which we used on the manual typewriters, then subsequently reels of correcting tapes for the electric machines which were now defunct. And, lurking at the back of the cupboard, were all the old William Tell 78 rpm records. No one wanted them. I couldn't let them be thrown out. They have lovely memories so they are now in my home, lurking at the back of a cupboard! The records go from a to j so we must have got up to a good speed with our keyboard training.

Incidentally, if you got your fingers on the wrong keys, you ended up with a load of code writing on the paper. If you typed erratically you ended up with the metal keys becoming jammed together.

Did you know the chap who invented the qwerty keyboard was called Dvorak, a relative of the composer. The keys are in this order as there is less chance of them clashing and becoming entangled as you type. Also there is more work for the left hand than the right hand with the sequence of letters in our language.

When you came to a number or a symbol, as these were often in different places on different models of typewriter, you had to lightly press the key, stand up and look to see what you were pressing! Not to mention the carry on when you made a mistake on the paper, using an eraser or the tip of a razor blade to remove the offending letter. Oh, happy day when Tippex was invented!

Just a little true story, a headmistress was not happy that her new computers were delivered with a qwerty keyboard. She changed the tops of the keys to alphabetical order so her children would know where a key was. She sent for the engineer when the children's work came out as rubbish! That is true, it was in *The Times*.

All of these are simply happy memories. Can you believe that none of this is required now. Some people don't even type, they speak into a machine which does it for them. It looks like William Tell and the Lone Ranger have had their day.

Discovering Local Artist Philip Bennison 1890-1924 ARCA (former Art Master of Henry Smith School)

Wendy Borthwick

The question was, 'Did I know that two of the stained-glass windows in St Paul's Church, Grange Road, had been designed by Philip Bennison a local artist?' The answer quite simply was, 'no; never heard of Philip Bennison'.

Philip John Basil Bennison born in West Hartlepool son of a gentleman's clothier, educated here and later at the Friends' School in Great Ayton, Yorkshire. The 1911 Census records him as being a tailor's cutter (probably working for his father) but he also attended art classes at the West Hartlepool School of Art, eventually becoming a full-time student. He also trained at Sunderland and Newcastle Schools of Art. He gained an Exhibition at the Royal College of Art in London where he obtained an Associateship of the Royal College of Art in 1916. Returning home, he took the position of Art Master at Henry Smith School, leaving in 1919 to become a free-lance artist.

Philip Bennison was excused military service because of the lasting effect of the lung disease (tuberculosis) which was the cause of his early death in 1924.



St Pauls

In 1919 an exhibition of his work was held in Hartlepool Art Gallery which seems quite soon considering the war only ended in November 1918. However, I

He was known for his political and sporting cartoons and also as a commercial artist, but is remembered more latterly for his work as a stained-glass artist. Samples of this work can be seen in several local churches including St Paul (not authenticated although we have had requests to visit the church to take a photograph of the two windows), St Oswald, St Mary Magdalene, Hart Village (an extremely fine example) and St Barnabas' Church in West View Road (since demolished). However the memorial window was saved and I understand is now stored among many artefacts in Sir William Gray House, Clarence Road, Hartlepool – so the search is on to find the window for possible display somewhere. He also designed and modelled the Hartlepool War Memorial on Hartlepool Headland.





Hart Church

1957 showing 57 items of his art work. The Collection was loaned by courtesy of his widow who was living in Stockton. I wonder where that collection from this incredibly talented local and little-known artist now resides?

Notes:

- *St Paul's Church – two windows, side by side on north wall. The first, in memory of the Church Organist and Choir Master. The second as a war memorial to 2nd Lieut Harold Hutson, King's Own Yorkshire Light Infantry, past chorister of this church who died of wounds on 26 March 1918 aged 21. Commemorated / buried at Villers-Faucon Cemetery in Somme region of France. Personal Inscription from family on CWG Headstone, "A most devoted & sublime life given for the peace of the world – at rest."*
- *St Oswald's Church – a large window situated on the south wall; dedicated to his Mother, Mary Augusta Bennison who died at Osmotherley.*
- *St Mary Magdalene church – Hart Village. Thought to be one of his finest examples. Sadly, the narrative has been lost.*
- *St Barnabas Church, – narrative missing but based on the quotation from the Bible, "He steadfastly set his face to go to Jerusalem" – Luke 9: 51. The accompanying brass plaque now on display in Christ Church Art Gallery and a picture of this window can be seen on the the North East War Memorials Project Website - <http://www.newmp.org.uk/>*
- *Congregational Church, South Shields – information with Tyne & Wear Archives & Museums (TWAM) but difficulty extracting information to date.*
- *Hartlepool War Memorial, in Redheugh Gardens Hartlepool Headland; dedicated to Hartlepool civilians and military personnel who lost their lives in the First and Second World Wars depicting a bronze winged figure known as 'Winged Victory' also known as, 'Triumphant Youth' symbolising a spiritual freedom...unveiled in 1921 by the Earl of Durham.*

A Singular Discovery of Spanish Coins Near West Hartlepool

Cliff Cordiner

A few months ago I went on a walk around Seaton Carew with the Teesside Archives. It was part of a seaside project celebrating the 50th anniversary of the first moves to protect the historic wrecks in English waters. The wreck on Seaton Carew beach which is visible from time to time is one of them.

During the walk we talked about my ancestors who have been in Seaton Carew since the 1700's and have a long history associated with the sea. My Great Grandfather William Scott Lithgo was born in Seaton Carew in 1870. He was a Tees pilot, the fourth generation of Lithgo's to do so dating back to 1788 when my four times great grandfather was the first. Two of my Great Grandfathers sons also went on to be Tees Pilots, followed by their sons. After an unbroken run of six generations spanning over two hundred years, the run was finally broken in 1989.

As well as being a Tees Pilot my Great Grandfather was also a member of the lifeboat crew, another family tradition going back many years. From a very early age he kept a detailed diary giving a first-hand account of what life was like in the village in the late 19th century. He talked about the people of the village and kept a record of the ships he piloted as well as all of the rescues he was involved in as a member of the lifeboat crew.

Because of my long-standing links with Seaton Carew the Teesside Archives asked if I would like to help out on another walk, which I was more than happy to do.

Once again we started with a visit to the partially visible wreck on the beach. At the moment not much can be seen, although in December 2002 the conditions were just right and much more was visible as can be seen in the photographs I took at that time.



The walk explored the lifeboats and their role in the many rescues from the first lifeboat in 1824, through to the last one in 1922 when the lifeboat station was closed and rescues were taken over by the Teessmouth and Hartlepool lifeboats.



As a child I remember seeing a photograph of the Seaton lifeboat and its crew many times as it hung on the wall in my grand-parents' house. At the time I did not realise it's significance, but it shows the Francis Whitbourn, which was the last lifeboat to be stationed at Seaton Carew, with my Great Grandfather on the left.

As we went round we talked about some of the more memorable wrecks such as the Alphonse Marie in 1881, and the violent storm

of 1861 when more than 60 ships were stranded or wrecked between Hartlepool and Seaton Carew, as well as more recent ones such as the MV Anne which became stranded in 1985.

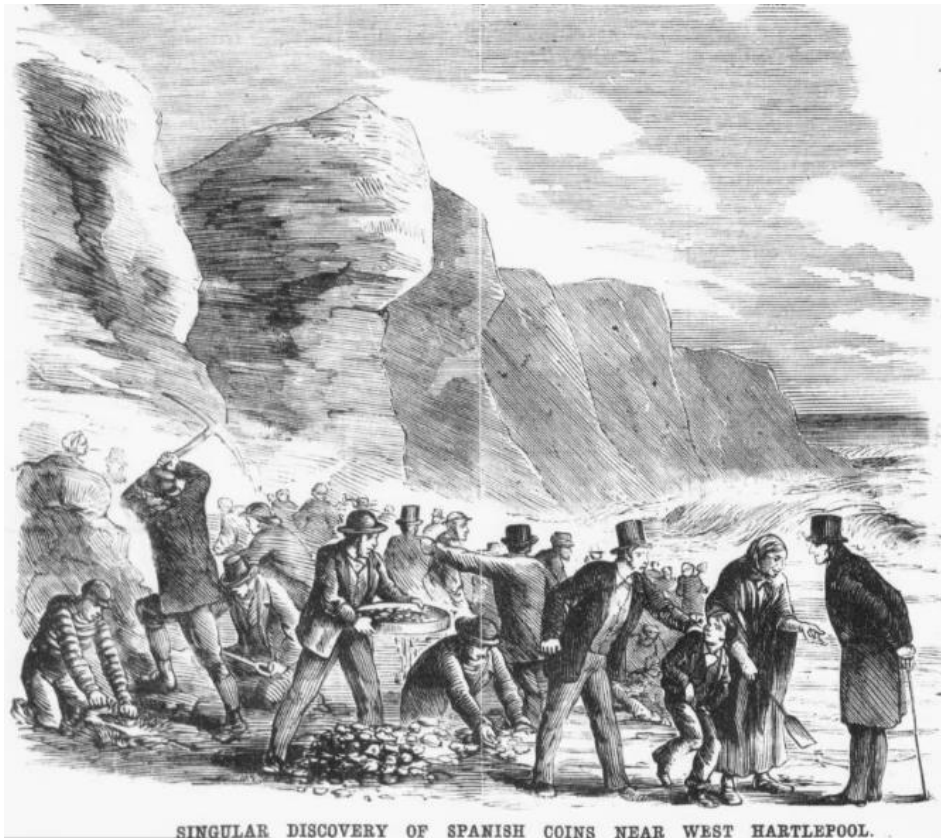
Many ships have come to grief off Seaton Carew, and one of the earliest recorded dates from 1235. However there is one in particular which has always intrigued me.

Following a heavy storm in 1867 the villagers had a rare treat when a hoard of Spanish silver coins was uncovered in the sands. The sand had been washed away leaving the clay and peat bed around what became known as Wreck Hole near the Carr Sands, about where the submerged forest is. Two men walking across the sands spotted something shining in the mud. On further investigation it turned out to be Spanish coins from the reign of Carolus the third and fourth of Spain, who reigned between 1720 and 1804. The two men stuffed their coats with the coins and went home to get their families, returning with buckets and whatever containers they could lay their hands on. News travelled fast and soon other villagers had joined them and they worked until after dark, lighting fires on the beach to help them see. The Lord of the Manor was reported to be considering making a claim on all the treasure found, so the diggers had to secretly dispose of the coins in various ways, including selling them to collectors.

It is widely believed that the coins came from the wreck of the Duck, a former American sailing ship captured as a prize during the war in 1812 and later sold on to become a Spanish slave ship. It is believed that it got caught in a storm in 1829 when a gale created an unusually high tide that flooded most of Seaton and drove seven ships onto the sands. All were refloated apart from The Duck which broke up.



The story has been passed down through the generations and was reported in various newspapers including the Illustrated Police News on 24th May 1867. The Headline read "Singular Discovery of Spanish Coins near West



Hartlepool” and included a drawing of the event.

They also reported that, in addition to the coins, a gold crucifix and several gold rings were found. What became of the treasure after that was a mystery.

Then in 1966 a gentleman called Alan Dyer was examining an old desk of his father’s when he discovered a secret drawer. In it was a Spanish silver dollar dated 1798 with a certificate which read “Spanish coin found at Seaton beach after shipwreck. One of many given to Uncle William Fleetham”. So there it was in black and white, proof that the story was indeed true. The coin was 39mm in diameter and weighed 27 grams, about the size of a British crown. They were worth about 4s 6d at the time, which is equivalent to about £20 in today’s money.

I think I will get myself a metal detector in case they missed any!

Down Memory Lane



That’s the Way to Garden!

Members of the original Gardening Group, enjoying the sunshine and morning coffee in Margaret Boddy’s wonderful gardening. Better than weeding any day.

Photograph Margaret Boddy

Notice Board

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Due to demand, I have now had to increase our booking at The Marine on Monday 18th December 2023 for our Christmas Lunch. I don't know if it the attraction of the Table Quiz with fantastic prizes, which has caused this rise in numbers!

The Marine have asked if we could say what we want for our meal. Obviously the main course is the same, but would you please complete Pauline's form on the Members' Table at the next general monthly meeting and give your choice of starter and pud. If you are only having one, that's ok.

There will be a Table Quiz of 50p per person to cover the cost of the fabulous prizes. You can tell by this, that they are going to be of 'superior quality'. There will also be a quiz to take home for the family. You are asked to give a donation to the Hospice for this.

I look forward to seeing you all there in your splendid Christmas attire. (This meal is for any u3a members)

Jacky Armstrong

Art Appreciation / History Network

The Northumbria Region u3a has set up a new informal Art Appreciation / History network. It is open to all members whether or not they are Group Leaders or part of a u3a art appreciation / history group. The first meeting will be on 21st November 2023, at 10.30a.m. by Zoom.

Further details will be issued nearer the time so keep an eye on their website and find out how and when you can see the famous Fighting Temeraire when it comes to the Laing Art Gallery next year. You will also find details about a forthcoming day event at the Royal Navy Museum of Hartlepool.

Cliff Cordiner

Jacky asks.... Who said this:

"I allow everyone else to feel superior. That's why I have friends."

Answer on page 11 of this Newsletter

QUIZ GROUP

We had a good number at our October quiz but, once again, a contingent from Stockton were the winners. The next quiz is on Tuesday 21st November in the Community Room at the Hub at 2 pm. There's plenty of parking. The entry is £1 per person which includes tea and a biscuit.

The Stockton contingent are often the winners of OUR quiz. YOUR U3A NEEDS YOU to help redress the balance. John is our next quiz master. Please come.

Jacky Armstrong.

'Word' of the Month

Barry's article on antimacassars (*in last month's Newsletter*) made me think of the two I inherited which were embroidered by my grandmother. I remember them on the back of my Grandad's chair and even though they must have been laundered many a time they still seem as fresh today.



I have just come across my own word of the month which is "solastalgia". This describes a form of distress brought about by environmental change close to your home. It was invented by the Australian philosopher Glenn Albrecht after witnessing the effects that persistent drought and open cast mining were having on the people of New South Wales. I think we may soon see it used more often.

Linda Sargent

A Review of the Concert by Orchestra North East at Durham Gala Theatre on 24 September 2023 by Wendy Borthwick

A lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon...

Durham Gala is small and cosy theatre which provides an intimate setting not found in larger concert halls, and the seats are comfortable!

The opening music by Richard Wagner was the gentle and moving imagery of the Good Friday music from his opera Parsifal. Music drifting across a gentle landscape, a contrast to the pain and suffering of Good Friday as the world sighed with great sorrow. Richard Wagner of course is synonymous with his famous Ring Cycle which requires a certain amount of dedication and endurance to stay with it. The impression is that this latter work overshadows so much more that he had to offer. I hasten to add that I speak with very little knowledge of the Ring Cycle it merely comes from a consensus of reaction to the name, 'Wagner'.

This gentle Good Friday music lead the way to the more robust and joyful rhythm of Richard Strauss's Horn Concerto No 1 written very early in his career. The official title to this piece of music "Waldhornkonzert" suggesting it was written for the older 'valveless' natural horn rather than the horn with valves that we see today but it is unlikely that most performers since its composition would take up that challenge. i

The concert closed with Vaughan Williams, Symphony No.2 – A London Symphony. Urged on by his friend George Butterworth who was killed on the Somme in 1916 Williams wrote a descriptive piece incorporating the sounds of London that he recognized from living there; ii from moments of tranquillity to the awakening of lively streets, to military marches, vibrant and exciting perhaps just as we ourselves view our capital city.

Yes, indeed a lovely way to spend a Sunday afternoon.

Notes: i Orchestra North East Concert Notes ii Orchestra North East Concert Notes

Garden Group News

Our September group meeting on the 25th was to Bob and Joan Cornwell's lovely garden at Hartburn. Their garden is delightful with lots of unusual plants, Afterwards, we went to Dobbies for lunch and a wander round the garden centre.

The October meeting was on Monday October 23rd, with 15 members attending. Carole Lloyd gave us a talk on weeds. which was very useful, as we all could do without them (except for those which have Medicinal or culinary properties)!

November's meeting will be a Christmas table decoration making session, given by Anita Ivison. Any u3a members who want to join the garden group or attend any of the visits, please get in touch with the group leaders, Liz Milbourn or Helen Eustace.

Liz Milbourn

Natural History Group

We met on a rather drizzly afternoon at Hardwick Country Park but still managed a good hours walk around the Lake. Even at this time of year, we saw quite a few wild flowers such as Spear thistle, Teasel, Red campion, Bugle, Forget me not, Hogweed and Daisy. I've recently joined The Butterfly Conservation society and received lots of information. I was surprised to find that some butterflies can be seen all year round such as Comma, Peacock, Red Admiral and Small Tortoiseshell. So the flowers will provide valuable nectar for them. We didn't see any butterflies today, too wet.

Margaret brought some duck food so we were able to get up close to Mallard, Swans, Black Headed Gulls and Coots.

Carol pointed out the unusual fruit of a Spindle tree and the fruit of a tree that has not been identified, yet!



We saw a fine specimen of a Scaly Inkcap. The gills become black with spores and liquefy so that the spores are spread by rain.

After our walk, we visited the cafe and had a cuppa and sampled the large portions of apple pie. Despite the weather, we enjoyed the stroll and chat and identified a few more plants.

Irene Arche

Who said: *"I allow everyone else to feel superior. That's why I have friends."* From page 9.

The answer to these words of wisdom is Ruth Graham, the Sage of the Quiz Group

Jacky

Tuesday Book Club

The Book Club has made a small start and would welcome anyone who is interested to join us - we meet upstairs in the Central Hub at 2pm on the fourth Tuesday of the month. We are still working out what sort of books we like to read and are happy to take recommendations.

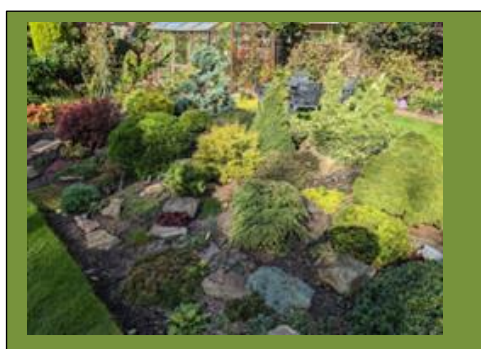
In October we talked about this month's book, Kate Atkinson's *Life After Life* and picked up our book for November, *The Guernsey Literary and Potato Peel Pie Society* by Mary Ann Shaffer and Annie Barrows.

If you'd like to come along and see what we're like, our next meeting is on 28 November. You can pick up a reading group copy of the book from the upstairs desk at Central Library. You'll need your library ticket. It would be lovely to see you and no obligation to return if you don't enjoy the meeting!

Mary Waldmeyer

Photographs from the Gardening group's visit to Bob & Joan Cornwell's lovely garden at Hartburn.

Photographs: Liz Milbourn



My Cultural Life

Linda Sargent



I joined the u3a in 2017 after meeting some members from the St. Alban's branch whilst on holiday. I was persuaded to come and see what a committee meeting entailed after a Wine Appreciation gathering and joined the Committee in 2018. I have been responsible for doing the minutes ever since. Currently I'm a member of the Bridge, Fun with Fabrics, Gardening, History, Quiz and Shibashi groups.

My favourite home cooked meal

Food always tastes better when someone else cooks it, so it's my husband's vegetarian curries and lentil dhal. As he was born and bred in India and also served with the Gurkhas he knows what he's doing. Left to my own devices it would be stir fried vegetables – the more the merrier – and halloumi.

My fantasy restaurant meal

Although I've eaten many a fine meal from most of the world's cuisines, my tastes have become simpler as I've got older. I would go back to a restaurant in Paris where in my 20s I ate a lettuce and walnut salad in vinaigrette for a starter and grilled salmon with haricot verts for a main course. Continuing the French theme but coming back to Essex, a rhubarb crème brulee from the Cricketers in Clavering, the pub once run by Jamie Oliver's parents. I've seen the recipe in one of Jamie's cookery books but never dared to try it in case it spoiled the memory.

My fantasy dinner party

My first guest would be my father as I know so little of his early life. I know he was 14 when the Russians invaded Poland and he was sent to a labour camp. I know he fought at Monte Cassino but how he eventually ended up as a miner in Blackhall is a mystery. To encourage him to talk, I would invite General Anders who commanded the Polish II Army and was greatly respected. Although he died in exile in London, he is buried with his soldiers at Monte Cassino. My third guest would be the military historian Richard Holmes who always made interesting and accessible TV programmes. We were due to go on holiday where he was to be a guest speaker, but sadly he became too unwell and died shortly thereafter. If we had the 12 traditional dishes of a Polish Christmas then that is bound to prolong the conversation.

My favourite album

Chris Rea's Road to Hell. When I lived in London this made me feel closer to my northern roots. The music of Breton harpist Alan Stivell always makes me want to dance (Breton style) and I also have a fondness for requiems, I think the Faure Requiem is probably my favourite.

My favourite memory of watching live music.

My first concert was to see the Rolling Stones at Stockton, supported by Ike and Tina Turner and the Yardbirds. And does anyone remember the Argus Butterfly at Peterlee? So many great bands – Led Zeppelin, Jethro Tull, Genesis, Fairport Convention – sometimes it's hard to believe. Living in London I had easy access to many concerts but then life and an aversion to crowds got in the way. I did come out of "retirement" for the Queen's Golden Jubilee Classical Concert in the grounds of Buckingham Palace and also a stupendous Verdi Requiem at the Stade de France in Paris.

My favourite film

The Harry Potter films with great actors and wonderful sets. Although I would normally avoid gritty dramas, the film I, Daniel Blake made a lasting impression and I'm keen to see Ken Loach's new film, the Old Oak.

My favourite TV comedy series

I sometimes wonder if I was short changed when the humour gene was handed out, as I often need jokes explaining to me. I liked Spitting Image, not only for its political and social comment but also for the artistry of the puppets.

My favourite TV drama series

I enjoy period dramas, so like Christine in a previous newsletter I would nominate Sharpe or the Pride and Prejudice series with Colin Firth. Montalbano is also a favourite, I can almost smell and feel the heat of Sicily when I watch it.

My favourite radio programme.

Radio 4 is a constant companion; I wake up to the Today programme and go to bed to the World Tonight. Book of the Week gives me exposure to interesting non-fiction books, In our Time has such an eclectic range of interesting subjects and the Life Scientific is an introduction to scientific topics that is gentle on the brain. I spend more time listening than I do watching TV.

My favourite book

I'm an avid reader but find it impossible to nominate a favourite book or even a favourite author. At the moment I'm reading The Northerners: a history by Brian Groom. I've just finished reading a book on Japanese Mythology and I have an eye on Rory Stewart's "Politics on the Edge" for my next read.

My guilty pleasure

Binge reading Swords and Sorcery fantasy novels via my Kindle Unlimited subscription. The guilt arises when I come back to the real world and notice how much housework needs doing!

Storm Babet

Sea unleashed; unfettered
Courtesy of Storm Babet
Whipped up by
Swirling easterly wind
Exuberant waves
Crash into and over
The resilient breakwater
Creating fantastic exhibition
Surpassing any firework display
Wave after wave after
Wave after wave
Surging forward remorselessly
Frothing like a Sea Serpent
Showing its teeth
To any who dare
Defy it
Playful but unforgiving
Of trespassers
Sound of herring gulls
Wheeling overhead
Taking advantage
Of currents of air
A brace of curlews
Scour the shoreline
Along with turnstones
Oyster catchers
Going about their business
Black headed gulls
Riding the waves
As if on
A rollercoaster
Enjoying not enduring
Unperturbed
Storm or no storm
Sun, rain, or drought
Natural life continues
Unabated
Obeying the first law:
Survive.

Roger Say

Poetry Corner

Don't put off till tomorrow what you can do today.

I'm resting in my armchair. And it's getting rather late
I ought to do the weeding, but instead procrastinate.
Oh no, its started raining and the washing's on the line
It felt quite dry an hour ago, I blame that glass of wine.
I'll mow the lawn tomorrow cos, I'm busy making stew
My head is in a fuzzle and I'm not sure what to do.
Putting off till tomorrow, I may be tempting fait
Why wait until tomorrow, for tomorrow may be too late.

Joan Hannon

Limericks

A married lady called Molly,
Got hit by a shopping trolley,
Very little damage was done,
Other than bruising her thumb,
So she went home quite merry and jolly!

A joiner called Ray from Dundee,
Loved his cups of tea,
His love for this brew,
Made all his dreams come true,
And kept him oh so happy!

A woolly mammoth called Mitch,
Developed a terrible itch,
To get rid of the fleas,
He would rub against trees,
Sadly lost his footing and fell in a ditch!

A data analyst called Trevor,
Thought he was ever so clever,
With his keyboard skills,
Entering files and his bills,
He could keep on for ever and ever!

John Grange

Directory

List of Committee Members for 2023 -2024

Chair, Speaker Finder & Web Admin.

Roger Say

Vice Chair–

Vacant

President & Minutes Secretary –

Linda Sargent

Business Secretary –

Wendy Borthwick

Treasurer –

Cliff Cordiner

Membership Secretary –

Andrea Reid

Group Co-ordinator & Beacon Admin.

Pauline Williamson

Committee – Keith Alder; Irene Archer

Interest Group Leaders

- **Archaeology/History Group:** Chris McLoughlin
- **Art Appreciation:** Group Leader role shared.
- **Board Games:** Irene Williams.
- **Bridge:** Phil Jefferies.
- **Chess Group:** Roger Say.
- **Creative Writing Group:** Roger Say.
- **Film Group:** Contact Phil Jefferies.
- **Fun with Fabrics:** Ann Say
- **Gardens and Gardening:** Liz Milbourn and Helen Eustace
- **Lawn Bowls:** Ray Elliston.
- **Music:** Steve Cole
- **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.
- **Tuesday Book Club:** Mary Waldmeyer
- **'View to Vue':** Roger Say.
- **Walking Group:** Keith Alder

Watch out for other interest groups starting in September!

Roles of Non- Committee Members

Newsletter Editor-

Barry Liddle

Copy Wanted for This Newsletter

Articles, Short Stories, Interesting Photographs (with captions), Limericks & Poems.
Items for the Newsletter's 'Notice Board' are also welcomed.

All contributions to the next Newsletter are most welcome.
Copy deadline for the next issue is 20 November 2023.

Barry Liddle, Newsletter Editor