

# Newsletter

Hartlepool & District u3a

Issue 76, September 2023



## Comments from the Chair

One of the tasks that the committee undertake behind the scenes is to regularly update our policies and procedures. These updates usually take place every two years although some need to be revised annually. All our policies can be seen on our website under 'Governance'. One of these policies is 'Equality, Diversity and Inclusion'. Under this policy we need to seek an Accessibility Officer whose role will be to ensure that both existing and new members can access meetings and groups they would like to join and consider what reasonable adjustments may be needed

to ensure this. If any of you have experience of such a role and can take on this position please contact me or one of the committee. Any member can take on this role without being a member of the committee.

It seems a long time since our last general meeting and I hope you are enjoying what remains of our summer. If you follow the meteorological calendar autumn starts on the 1st of September but if you want to extend your summer for another 3 weeks your best option is to go for the astronomical summer which ends this year on September 23rd. The mere fact that the actual weather may not bear any relationship to either date is neither here nor there!

I look forward to seeing you at our next meeting on Friday 1st September when our guest speaker will be Jane Ruffer who will be telling us all about 'The Auckland Project'. This should not be missed. Meanwhile,

Take care everyone.

Roger

## Britain's Oldest Anglo Saxon Church

Barry Liddle

The Photography for Fun group recently visited Escomb village, located a couple of miles to the west of Bishop Auckland, to photograph the 'oldest Saxon church in the country' according to the notice board by the perimeter wall of the church. Researching the on-line Wikipedia, we also found that Escomb is "one of only four complete Anglo-Saxon churches remaining in England, the others being St Laurence's Church, Bradford-on-Avon, Greensted Church, and All Saints' Church, Brixworth".



Front and side views of the church. © Barry Liddle



Side and back views of the church. © Barry Liddle

Scholars believe the church was founded around AD 670–675, when the area was part of the Anglian Kingdom of Northumbria.

We learnt that much of the stone for the church was taken from the nearby Roman fort at Binchester -which was the subject of a talk not so long ago at one of our U3A general meetings.

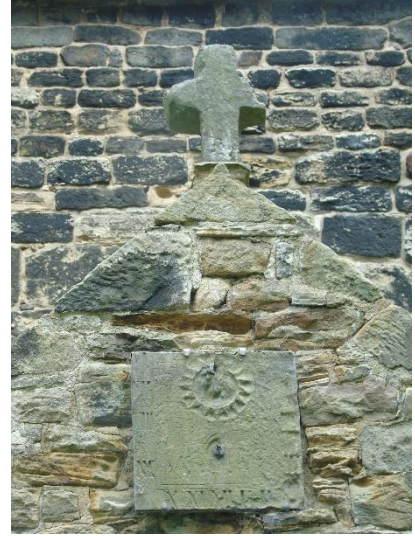
Keys to this Grade 1 listed building are available locally to members of the general public and we spent a good deal of time viewing the interior of this small, intimate, and quietly impressive church.



The interior roof follows the pattern of an upturned boat.  
© Barry Liddle



The church is long tall and narrow. © Barry Liddle



On the gable of the south porch is a 7th or early 8th Century sundial. © Barry Liddle



Amongst the conventional tombstones in the church yard, these two unusual stones caught my eye. Does anyone know what the symbols mean?

© Barry Liddle

We spent so much time at the church, that we only had time for a cursory look at Bishop Auckland before it was time for tea and cakes at the 'Fifteas Vintage Tearoom' which we recommend for the friendly staff and the quality of the home baked fare.

# Transporter Bridges Around the World

Cliff Cordiner

Recently I was flicking through Netflix looking for something to watch (other streaming services are available). Eventually I spotted a thriller with the title *The Eighth Victim* set in Bilbao which looked interesting. Imagine my surprise when the opening scene was set on what looked very much like the Transporter Bridge across the Tees. This got me wondering how many other transporter Bridges there are. It turns out that there were twenty built originally, four of which were in the UK at Middlesbrough, Warrington, Widnes, and Newport in Wales. Of the twenty built, eight are still standing, but only six are still in operation today.



The Transporter Bridge across the river Tees is an iconic landmark and a symbol of the heritage of Teesside. It was originally opened in 1911 but has been closed since 2019 to allow for repair works to be carried out. Apart from being an interesting structure the bridge achieved urban legend status in the 1970's when actor Terry Scott mistook the bridge for a regular toll crossing and famously drove his Jaguar over the edge landing in the safety net below.

Then in 2002 the bridge became a TV star featuring in an episode of *Auf Wiederseh'n Pet* when it was supposedly sold to the USA and reassembled in Arizona.

The concept of a Transporter Bridge was invented in 1873 by Charles Smith, an engineer from Hartlepool. He unsuccessfully presented his idea to various Councils around the UK including Hartlepool, Middlesbrough, and Glasgow, but his idea fell on deaf ears.

The first ever Transporter Bridge to be built was the Vizcaya Bridge built in 1893 in Spain, the one I spotted in my TV series, and has been in continuous operation ever since. The only time it was closed was during the Spanish Civil War from 1937 to 1941. It was designed by Alberto Palacio, based on Charles Smith's idea, and inspired others to attempt similar structures. It was an idea suited to locations where it was impractical to build a conventional bridge or for a ferry crossing. Today the Vizcaya Bridge is a UNESCO world heritage site, as are all of the eight remaining transporter bridges.

The Rendsburg High Bridge crosses the Kiel Canal in Germany. It was designed by Friedrich Voss and was opened in 1913 and replaced the earlier swing bridges. Originally the railway had priority over canal traffic, so whenever a train crossed the canal on the swing bridge, the canal barges had to stop, adding an extra half hour on to most journeys. This is why it was replaced with a railway bridge high enough to allow barges to pass underneath, and also had a gondola suspended below for pedestrians and cars. During a storm in 1993 the unmanned gondola broke loose and collided with a ship, both suffering minor damage. Then in 2016 the gondola collided with a cargo ship and was damaged beyond repair. A new one was built and it was back in service in 2022. Today it runs every 15 minutes and is a popular mode of transport for students on their way to university each day.

The Transporter Bridge on the Tees had its moments too. My great grandfather was a Tees pilot who liked to write. He kept a detailed diary from when he was a child in the 1870's until he died in 1960, which I now have. In his diaries, he recalls an occasion in May 1932 when the skysail mast of a Finnish four masted barque caught the Transporter Bridge and broke the top off it. It was the biggest sailing ship ever to sail up the Tees and he recalls piloting her from Stockton to Smith's Dock in Hartlepool on a number of occasions.

Le Pont Transbordeur crosses the Charente river in Rochefort, France. This bridge was developed by Ferdinand Arnodin in 1900 to provide a means of crossing the Charente river without hindering shipping traffic. As well as the foot passengers and cyclists that use it today, it used to carry cars, carts, and horses. It is the last remaining bridge of this type in France.

Built in 1909, the Osten transporter Bridge crosses the Oste river in lower Saxony, Germany. It was in regular use until 1974 when a new by-pass was built, and now is only used as a visitor attraction. It can carry either six cars or one hundred persons. It links the towns of Osten and Hemmoor. It was constructed by the MAN company based in Mainz. It was built because when the railway line opened between Harburg and Coxhaven in 1881, the ferry barge was no longer able to meet the growing demands for the transport of people and freight.

In 1914 the Buenos Aires Great Southern Railway built a transporter bridge linking the city of Buenos Aires with the district of Avellaneda in Buenos Aires Province South of the Riachuelo river. It was opened operation until 1960. In 1997 plans were announced to restore the bridge, and it was re-opened in 2017. It is a national Historic Monument of Argentina and is the only transporter bridge outside of Europe.

Finally the Newport Transporter Bridge is very much the twin to the Middlesbrough Transporter Bridge and has dominated the Newport skyline since it was opened in 1906. In 1900 Newport was a very busy port, much of it centred up river from where the Transporter bridge now stands. Industry was expanding on the east side of the river which, for the population largely based on the west side, meant a 4 mile walk to cross the river by the town bridge to get to work. A ferry operated but the changing tide times and the extreme rise and fall meant that this was not a practical or reliable method of crossing, especially for work. A transporter bridge offered an economical solution as tunnelling was technically difficult and expensive and a conventional bridge required a very long approach ramp to gain sufficient height to maintain a waterway for the tall ships of the day. The bridge cost £98,000 and was opened in 1906 by Lord Tredegar.

Ah well, back to my TV series.....

# Notice Board

**Wendy Borthwick**  
has arranged for **Fourteen Tickets to be reserved for Hartlepool & District u3a on Sunday 24th September 2023 at:**

Durham Gala Theatre  
Orchestra North East presents a:  
Classical Music Concert on 24 September 2023  
Start 3pm - Finish (approx.) 5pm

Programme:

- 1 - A beautiful and moving extract from Wagner's Parsifal
- 2 - Richard Strauss flamboyant, Horn Concerto no. 1 - soloist Peter Francomb.
- 3 - Vaughan Williams' London Symphony - an evocative picture of Edwardian London...

Guest Conductor - Philip Bach

**A Mini Bus has been arranged to leave Aldi (Dunstan Rd) car park at 2pm with return to Aldi car park approximately 6pm.**

**Theatre tickets: Adults £16; Concessions £14; Bus: approx. £13**

**Opportunity to book on a 'first come first served basis' at our General Meeting on Friday 1st September at 2pm.**

Payment required in Full.

Closing Date: Thursday 14 September.

**NB - we will need the numbers for this event to be viable.**



## Music Group- October

There is no meeting in September but we will be meeting again in October to listen to music and find out more about the numerous genres of music, various composers all within different eras. And what's more we've changed venue! We look forward to welcoming new members to join us in the Central Hub (old library) on the first Thursday of the month from 10 -12. I really can recommend this group; it is so interesting: all I can suggest you give it a try.

**Pauline Williamson (Group Co-ordinator)**

### Indoors, if wet.

History Group rounded off the first part of the year with a walk around the village of Greatham, they chose a Test match Saturday in July, which proved that the Rain God was an Australian. However, in the tradition of the English Summer Fete, the "walk" was moved indoors as our guide Brian had arranged for visits to the Community Centre, Hospital Chapel, and Parish Church (a special thanks to the Churchwarden allowing that access) to take us through the fascinating history of the village.

The core of the visit was that 2023 marks the 750th Anniversary of the founding of the Hospital of God which is still a dominant part of the village. The foundation was originally made when Peter de Montfort lost the Manor of Greatham when he was on the wrong side at the Battle of Evesham and the Prince Bishop stepped in to claim the land. We traced the continuous history of the hospital since then even during the Commonwealth it continued in some form.

Anyone who has been to the "Snowdrop Walk" at the Hospital will know of the beautiful Chapel Hospital and Brian traced the history for us including a few rebuilds and refurbishments over the centuries during the time the Earl of Bridgewater was involved. Apparently, the earliest Masters of the Hospital are buried beneath the Chapel. We rounded off with a call at St John's to trace that Churches history back to the 10th Century, but part of the altar also showed signs of being from the Anglo-Saxon period.

After our sun-drenched August break, we resume matters with a talk on September 14th at the People Centre when Margaret Hedley talks about "Hannah's Daughter" another exploration of her family tree in the 20th Century.

Chris McLoughlin



### Natural History Group Meetings:

- **September 7<sup>th</sup>** Castle Eden walkway, Wynyard Woodland Park, 1.30, outside of the cafe.
- **October 5<sup>th</sup>** at 1.30, Hardwick country park near Sedgefield. Meet outside of the cafe. Note there is a car park fee of £2 for 2 hours, £3 full day.
- **November 2<sup>nd</sup>** at 1.30, The Headland car park outside of the Borough Hall.
- **December**, No meeting

Irene Archer

### Worst Holiday Ever!

- **Ever** found yourself on the wrong plane, in the wrong country or at the wrong hotel?
- **Ever** found yourself at the airport without your partner, money, passport, luggage or children?
- **Ever** found your holiday hotel was still under construction or the 'all you can eat buffet' specialised in salmonella?
- **Ever** returned home to find it infested with killer wasps, occupied by 30 teenagers having a party or the kitchen under 2 feet of water?

Then we need to know. **Send your worst ever holiday experiences to the Editor.**



Jacky Armstrong is having a Coffee Time at her home in Claremont Drive on Friday 15th September from 11 am to 3 pm, in aid of Macmillan Nurses and Yorkshire Brain Tumour Research. Please come and support these worthy causes.

Jacky



### New Tuesday Book Club

The first meeting of our new Tuesday Book Club will be held on 26 September at 2 o'clock in the Central Hub and monthly on each fourth Tuesday. So far we haven't decided on how it will run, so this is your chance to come along and influence the way it develops and suggest books that you think we would enjoy sharing.

Just to get us started, and to help us get to know one another, please come prepared to talk about one of your favourite fictional characters.

Mary Waldmeyer



**Bill Horsley's holiday photographs from the village of Mickleton.**

### World Alzheimer's Day

I was searching the internet for a significant events to highlight in this our September Newsletter, when I came across 'World Alzheimer's Day', which is on the 21<sup>st</sup> of September and aims to raise awareness of this most distressing disease. Coincidentally, I came across an interesting article in The Sunday Times (Aug 6<sup>th</sup>) by Science Editor Ben Spencer, in which he reports on a series of drug trials which are creating excitement in the dementia field after several years in which medical research had stagnated. The details are too complex and long to summarise here, let's just hope that better treatments will be approved by the regulatory bodies sooner rather than later. Look out for more news of these trials in the media on 'World Alzheimer's Day.

Editor



### Fun With Fabrics Group

- Fun with Fabrics is back in August. Ann will be leading this session and it's going to be a surprise to learn what we will be doing! Why don't you come along to the People's Centre on August 24th from 10- 12 to find out what we, and hopefully you, will be making. It would be good to welcome new members to our busy little group.
- In September's session we will be making, (dare I say it) fabric Christmas trees. I will be bringing samples of Christmas material to the next meeting so that if you wish to attend this session, you could choose your fabric so that I can prepare the lengths needed for your Christmas tree project as well as weighing out the fibrefill. The reason we have started Christmas early in Fun with Fabrics is because I will be in Florida for a month during November/December..... I'll be thinking of you whilst I am enjoying the warm winter sunshine!

**Pauline Williamson (Group Co-ordinator)**

### UK-Wide u3a Festival in York, 2024

Planning for next year's first ever UK-wide u3a festival has begun. It will be held in York over a three-day period from 17th to 19th July, 2024, at the University of York. It is being organised by Margaret Fiddes who is the Regional Trustee for Yorkshire and Humber. Even though it is a year away response so far has been very good, and demand is likely to be high. If any members, groups, or group leaders would like to register an interest in attending or offering an interest / workshop activity it would be advisable to get in early to avoid disappointment. You can do so by sending an email to [festival@u3a.org.uk](mailto:festival@u3a.org.uk)

In the meantime there is a short vlog you can watch on YouTube on the following link <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=FUTBv wVSiwM>

Cliff Cordiner,  
Treasurer.

### The Art Group

**The Art group has moved from the Art Gallery Café to the Central Hub (old library) but the day and time remains the same, although we are still looking for a leader or co-leaders to run the group. We meet on the second Wednesday of the month from 10 - 12. We are discovering about various artists, past and present and various materials which they used. Another group which is extremely interesting and worth a try.**

**Pauline Williamson (Group Co-ordinator)**



Photograph of Alliums taken in the Burn Valley on a camera phone by Wendy Borthwick.

## My Cultural Life

Barry Liddle



*Portrait taken by Ray Elliston*

When I first joined the U3A, members were invited to make suggestions for new Interest groups. I suggested someone should start a gardening group, what I didn't expect was that someone would be me! Having got it up and running, I soon found myself being co-opted onto our U3A Committee. I ended up staying for 5 years, with two as Chairman. In the early days of Committee life I volunteered to edit our U3A Newsletter and I've kept that role ever since, this being my 76<sup>th</sup> edition.

After leaving the Committee I felt I'd taken the Gardening Group as far as I could, so I stood down as Group Leader and used the extra spare time to create a Music Appreciation

Group with Ray Elliston. Our efforts were well received, but the amount of work involved combined with two years of Covid restrictions, sadly brought the group to a natural conclusion.

Apart from editing the Newsletter, I remain an active member of the Photography for Fun Group and until very recently, Chris McLoughlin's excellent Archaeology/History Group. I continue to support the monthly General Meetings, which are a great place to meet new members and catch -up with old friends.

### **My favourite home cooked meal.**

Over the course of 7 decades I've eaten enough home cooked food to sink a battleship, so I should know my favourite meal, which unsurprisingly is a traditional Sunday roast with Lincoln new potatoes (when in season), roast potatoes & parsnips, finely chopped cabbage with a knob of butter & white pepper, mashed swede (which we call turnip) again seasoned with butter & white pepper, carrots, mushy peas, Yorkshire pudding and proper gravy. Condiments are also important, apple sauce with pork, mint sauce with lamb but instead of Horseradish sauce with beef, a Liddle family tradition-'a chopped salad' lightly dressed in vinegar. The starter of choice for the lunch would be a classic prawn cocktail and if there was any room for dessert, then a portion of sherry trifle.

### **My fantasy restaurant meal.**

Rather than go down the fine dining route, I'd like to pick a simple twist on a local dish that can be elevated to the heights of gastronomy when cooked to perfection using the finest quality ingredients. So, my surprise 'fantasy restaurant meal' would be a trio of Cod, Lemmon Sole and Haddock Goujons fried in a light crispy batter with triple cooked chips, a wedge of lemon and tartar sauce, washed down with a chilled glass or two of Champagne. Dessert would be a bowl of the finest Scottish strawberries topped with a generous dollop of Devon clotted cream.

### **My fantasy dinner party.**

In a private dining room on the Amalfi Coast with a wonderful sea view, my immediate family, both past and present, would be seated around a large oval table covered with a crisp white tablecloth and silver cutlery. We would be joined by two special guests – my favourite comedian Tommy Cooper seated on my left and the beautiful Marilyn Monroe on my right. In between Tommy's jokes and magic tricks we would enjoy a ten-course tasting menu prepared by a brigade of leading French and Italian chefs, with an endless supply of fine wines and vintage champagne. And strangely enough, Marilyn would join me for a digestif when all the other guests had departed. (Well, we did say this was a fantasy dinner party!)

### **My favourite Album**

If I was on 'Desert Island Discs' my luxury item would be a CD player together with every album ever published. But I'm not on the island and I can only choose one album, but to make the most of the situation I'm going to list my top 3 in reverse order. So, in third place '*Stormbringer*' by Deep Purple, in second place '*Tapestry*' by Carole King and in first place, Neil Young's '*After the Gold Rush*'. Having made my choice, I'm mortified that no Bob Dylan album features in my top three.

### **My favourite memory of watching live music.**

I like live music *per se* but I don't enjoy the experience of travelling to music venues on public transport, queuing to get in, being part of a noisy crowd and then getting back home late at night slightly deaf. I'd rather listen to music from the comfort of my own armchair. Having said that, I did venture out in my youth to see John Martyn (singer/guitarist) at Kingston Polytechnic towards the end of the hippy era when we sat cross legged on the floor in our flared jeans to listen to long guitar solos (never again) and a few months after that, I came across the then unknown 'Stranglers' in the student bar at Gipsy Hill Teacher Training College, just as punk rock was emerging. A few years later, I used to go regularly on a Sunday night to a pub near the Exeter Ship Canal (where some scenes of the '*Onedin Line*' TV series were filmed) to listen to an excellent local blues band. But my favourite experience of live music was attending on many occasions the annual Birmingham Jazz Festival – which has now been running for 40 years.

### **My favourite film.**

This is a difficult task as I genuinely don't have a clear favourite film. If it was a lazy afternoon around Christmas time and I was sat in front of the TV with a glass of sherry and a mince pie, then any epic film like *Ben-Hur* or *Cleopatra* with a 'cast of thousands' would suffice, although I couldn't promise to stay awake until the end.

### **My favourite songwriter or composer**

I was brought-up in the 1960s on the Lennon & McCartney song book and they could easily be my favourite song writers of all time. But I have to mention in despatches, a number of really great American singer-songwriters from the 1970s, namely Bob Dylan, Jimmy Webb, Carol King and Neil Young. I also admire popular songwriters from an earlier such as: Cole Porter. Irving

Berlin, George and Ira Gershwin. My favourite classical composer is the American Samuel Barber and my favourite composition of his- '*Adagio for Strings*'.

### **My favourite TV comedy series.**

I would happily vote for any comedy series featuring one of my favourite comedians, Tommy Cooper, Spike Milligan, Eric Sykes, Charlie Drake, the American Jack Benny, or the comedy duos Laurel & Hardy and Morecambe & Wise. However, my favourite TV comedy series comes from the 'situation comedy' format, so in third place is our very own *The Likely Lads* (where the worst thing possible was to spend Saturday Night in West Hartlepool), in second place, '*Dad's Army*' and in first place - largely for sentimental reasons, the gentle humour of '*Last of The Summer Wine*'.

### **My favourite TV drama series**

*Dr. Finlay's Casebook* was probably one of the first TV drama series that made an impact on me, whilst other drama series I admired from my youth include: *Adam Adamant Lives!*; *The Prisoner* starring Patrick McGoohan; *Z Cars* and the spin-off series *Softly Softly*; *The Avengers*; the *Forsythe Saga* and the ground breaking series *Play for Today*. Over the last few decades I've admired some wonderful series including *Inspector Morse*; *The Sopranos*; *Mad Men*; *the X-Files*; *Band of Brothers*; and most recently *Broadchurch*; Sally Rooney's *Normal People* and *Line of Duty*. But my favourite TV drama series of all time has to be the BBC's 1979 seven-part masterpiece - *Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy* starring Alec Guinness as the enigmatic George Smiley. I liked every aspect of this series. It was innovative in setting a realistic and cracking drama within the shadowy world of espionage. The acting and direction was of the highest order and even the end credits were a thing of beauty, featuring a solo chorister singing an arrangement from the Book of Common Payer which like the programme, won rave reviews and several awards.

### **My favourite radio programme.**

The fifteen-minute '*Letter from America*' broadcast by Alistair Cook between 1946 and 2004 was a Sunday morning ritual. Each week he would deliver a convivial talk on a topical issue, weaving together a wonderful mixture of observation, wisdom and anecdotes. His insights were enhanced by the fact that he mixed socially with many of the public figures featured in the broadcasts. I should also like to put in a word for the long running *Gardeners' Question Time*. However, if push comes to shove, my favourite programme of all time has to be another Sunday morning staple on Radio 4, namely '*Desert Island Discs*'. I liked the programme best with its original presenter Roy Plomley. Since then a succession of presenters and their produces have made some of the questioning too personal & political and one has to question the selection policy for guests in the last few years – but it remains a wonderful programme, my favourite. When Ray and I ran the Music Appreciation group we had a great deal of fun in recreating our own special edition of the programme featuring one of our members - Leslie Jones, who rose to the occasion with great aplomb.

### My favourite book

As a youngster, I found reading a difficult skill to grasp but once I got the hang of it there was no holding me back. I like a wide range of genres, including biography, history, sport, general fiction, crime and spy novels. However, choosing one book is almost impossible, so how to decide? I suppose I could throw an armful of my favourite books down a flight of stairs and see which one reaches the bottom, or I could draw lottes for first, second and third place. However, neither approach is satisfactory, perhaps my favourite book is the one I have re-read the most. In that case, the hands down winner is 'Tinker Tailor Soldier Spy' by John le Carre.

### My guilty pleasure

Watching professional boxing is my guilty pleasure. Boxing is difficult to defend morally but having grown up watching heavyweights like Henry Cooper, Brian London (born in West Hartlepool) and the great showman Mahammad Ali, it retains a certain, if uneasy, fascination.

## Poetry Corner

### A Bucket List

I was asked to write a bucket list  
Things to do before I die  
Have to give the matter some thought  
Add on some reasons why  
At first, I was taken aback  
Always thought that I was immortal  
When I informed my friends of this  
I was met with a snort and a chortle  
So I sat down at my writing desk  
Began to compile a list  
What about climbing Mount Everest?  
Nah, think I'll give that one a miss

*Continued.....*

Sail singlehanded around the world?  
Doesn't seem to have much appeal  
The idea of running a marathon  
Sounds like a rather raw deal  
Sky diving out of an aeroplane  
Does not appeal at all  
If the parachute didn't open  
It could end in a fatal fall  
The idea of writing a bucket list  
Is rapidly beginning to decline  
Think I'll simply settle down  
With a glass or two of wine

**Roger Say**

# Famous People for Fun Quiz

Barry Liddle

1 All the following are famous singers except one. Who is the odd one out?

- a) Dusty Springfield
- b) Kate Moss
- c) Shirley Bassey
- d) Kate Bush

2 Harry Webb is a famous British singer, but he is better known by his stage name, which is:

- a) Elton John
- b) Matt Monro
- c) Cliff Richard
- d) Screaming Lord Sutch

3 Who is credited with being the inventor of the Telephone?

- a) Alexander Graham Bell
- b) Thomas Edison
- c) Henry Ford
- d) Doctor Who

4 Who was Britain's Prime Minister during the Suez Crisis?

- a) Clement Attlee
- b) Harold Macmillan
- c) Anthony Eden
- d) William Pitt the Younger

5 Who composed 'The Four Seasons'?

- a) Bach
- b) Handel
- c) Mozart
- d) Vivaldi

6 Which designer invented the miniskirt in the 1960s.

- a) Vivienne Westwood
- b) Mary Quant
- c) Donatella Versace
- d) Edina Monsoon

7 Who is the author of the 'Inspector Rebus' detective novels?

- a) P. D. James
- b) Val McDermid
- c) Ian Rankin
- d) John Grisham

8 Who painted the Mona Lisa?

- a) Leonardo da Vinci
- b) Peter Paul Rubens
- c) Diego Velazquez
- d) Raphael

9 All the following were famous 'diarists' except one. Who is the odd one out?

- a) Anne Frank
- b) Tony Benn
- c) Harold Wilson
- d) Samuel Pepys

10 Who was the first man to orbit the Earth?

- a) Neil Armstrong
- b) John Glenn
- c) Yuri Gagarin
- d) Alan Shepard

11 Who is the Patron Saint of France?

- a) Joan of Arc
- b) Coco Chanel
- c) Colette
- d) Genevieve

12 Who was the first person to reach the South Pole?

- a) Roald Amundsen
- b) Ernest Shackleton
- c) Robert Falcon Scott
- d) James Ross

13 Which poet wrote 'I Wandered Lonely as a Cloud'?

- a) Lord Byron
- b) John Keats
- c) John Milton
- d) William Wordsworth

14 Who was the founder of Methodism?

- a) John Clarke
- b) William Booth
- c) John Calvin
- d) John Wesley

15 Who was the first man to run under four minutes for the mile?

- a) Chris Chataway
- b) Roger Bannister
- c) Chris Brasher
- d) John Landy

16 Who wrote the music for these memorable songs: 'Walk on By', 'Alfie', and 'The Look of Love'?

- a) Burt Bacharach
- b) Paul Simon
- c) Carole King
- d) Randy Newman

17 Which famous scientist is best known for developing 'The Theory of Relativity'?

- a) Niels Bohr
- b) Enrico Fermi
- c) Albert Einstein
- d) Stephen Hawking

18 Who was the Allied Supreme Commander in WW2?

- a) Field Marshal Claude Auchinleck
- b) General Omar Bradley
- c) General Dwight D. Eisenhower
- d) Field Marshal Bernard Montgomery

19 In the 1700s I was well known as a poet, playwright, essayist, critic, biographer, editor and lexicographer. But I'm best known for compiling 'A Dictionary of the English Language'. Who am I?

- a) James Boswell
- b) Samuel Johnson
- c) Samuel Pepys
- d) Jonathon Swift

20 Which American Billionaire is the power behind these major technology companies- SpaceX, Tesla and Twitter?

- a) Jeff Bezos
- b) Bill Gates
- c) Steve Jobs
- d) Elon Musk

## Answers on Page 16

# Directory

## List of Committee Members for 2023 -2024

### **Chair & Speaker Finder –**

Roger Say

### **Vice Chair–**

Vacant

### **President & Minutes Secretary –**

Linda Sargent

### **Business Secretary –**

Wendy Borthwick

### **Treasurer –**

Cliff Cordiner

### **Membership Secretary –**

Andrea Reid

### **Group Co-ordinator –**

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

**I.T. Support (Website and Beacon) for a temporary period–**

Phil Jefferies

### **Newsletter Editor-**

Barry Liddle

## Quiz Answers

1 b) Kate Moss; 2 c) Cliff Richard; 3 a) Alexander Graham Bell; 4 c) Anthony Eden; 5 d) Vivaldi; 6 b) Mary Quant; 7 c) Ian Rankin; 8 a) Leonardo da Vinci ; 9 c) Harold Wilson; 10 c) Yuri Gagarin; 11 a) Joan of Arc; 12 a) Roald Amundsen; 13 d) William Wordsworth; 14 d) John Wesley; 15 b) Roger Bannister; 16 a) Burt Bacharach; 17 c) Albert Einstein; 18 c) General Dwight D. Eisenhower; 19 b) Samuel Johnson; 20 d) Elon Musk

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