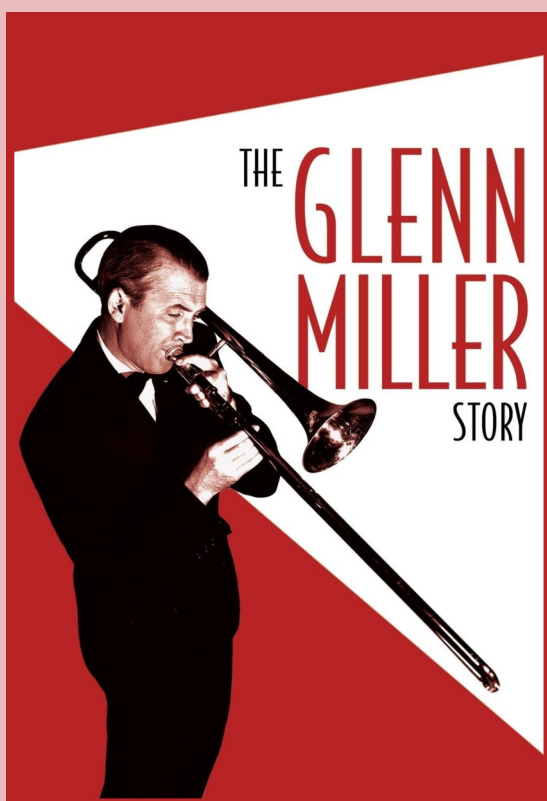


Theatre Group

Theatre Group is back with a swing after the worry and uncertainty of Covid. Numbers for the trips are creeping up again and new members seem to be joining at every Update meeting. Since we met face to face after the Zoom meetings of Covid, we did mostly Open Air outings such as lovely Gardens or River Trips to gain people's confidence about mixing again, but we soon moved on to our favourite Theatres to watch some wonderful Musicals such as South Pacific, My Fair Lady, and Les Miserables, and plays such as Best Exotic Marigold Hotel.

Around the Christmas period, we enjoyed Castle Howard's Fairytale Christmas and The Sage Gateshead's wonderful resident Orchestra, The Northern Sinfonia.

After Christmas, we have enjoyed the lovely Ballet Coppelia at Darlington Hippodrome and the Glen Miller Big Band Spectacular, also at Darlington. We are going to re-visit one of our



favourite outings in March, The World Heritage Site village of Saltaire, built for his workers by Sir Titus Salt.

We are up to full coach capacity size of 53 for this outing, which includes an afternoon Canal trip, which is just as well because the coach fare is rather steep as it is nearly at Bradford.

Anyone new coming on Theatre group outings, please note that the price always includes a very comfortable coach run by Generation Travel, who are very reliable and have lovely drivers. So, no worries about driving there, parking etc. We pick up at Guisborough Fountain Street (when asked), Saltburn Square, Co-op Garage Saltburn, Bus stop opposite Marske Cheshire Homes, and bus stop nearest to Turners Mill Redcar. People on their own soon make new friends with whom they can spend a few hours, shopping or visiting an Art Gallery, and having some lunch, as we nearly always do a daytime trip and book a Theatre matinee.

Come and give us a try!

Barbara Spight. Organiser.

La Fête Des Rois



January 6th is Epiphany, the date when the three Kings arrived at the stable in Bethlehem and gave their gifts to the Baby Jesus.

This festival is celebrated by families in France with the eating of a special “cake”: « La galette des rois »

(Un roi = King ; une reine = Queen)

Thanks to group member, Carol Bruce, the French group was able to join in and enjoy this tradition.

The cake is made from flaky pastry and almond filling. Carol enhanced this already delicious mix with a helping of cognac.

Hidden in the Galette is a dried bean. Whoever finds the bean becomes “le roi “or “la reine” for the day.

Nowadays many families use a china figure, often of Christ or one of the kings, but the French group maintained the tradition of using a bean.

Our “reine” for the day was Margaret Watson.

This is a tradition that we had already started before the pandemic. We now hope to continue with it, providing us with links to France and the French.

Sally Melvin

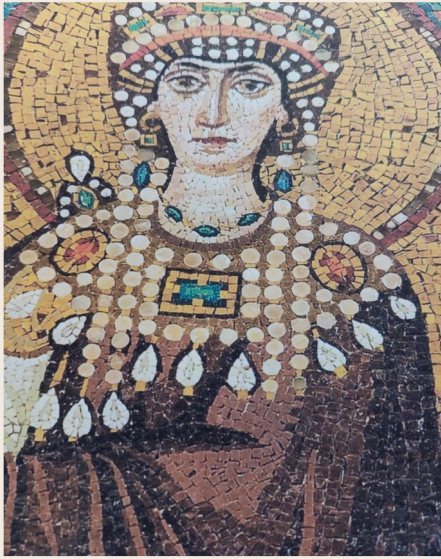
Chef de Groupe

Conversation française.

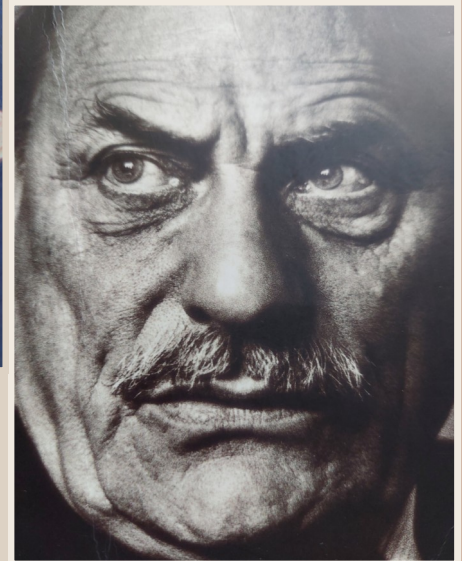
Rather Interesting Lives

What do these three have in common? :

**Hallie Selassie of Ethiopia,
The Roman Empress and Saint, Theodora
Enoch Powell**



Hallie Selassie of Ethiopia



Enoch Powell

The Roman Empress and Saint, Theodora

Only that they all had very interesting lives. Fascinating indeed.

Hailie Selassie, English educated, worshipped as the Son of God (a stature he always denied)

Theodora, law giver, defender of the rights of women, dancer, prostitute, Saint, and very beautiful.

Enoch Powell, minister of health, multi lingual, poet, lost in the Australian outback and politically notorious.

All were subjects of the Rather Interesting Lives Group which is not running at the moment. However, with sufficient interest, the Group will re-start soon.

Building on the last 12 months experience, this time the suggested frequency is once a month, meetings lasting about 75 minutes. Each life is a surprise and anyone can present the life. We all learn a lot, but it is light learning and there is space for those who just want to attend and let others do the presentation.

Please contact me or a committee member if you are interested in getting the group up and running again.

Paul Bennett