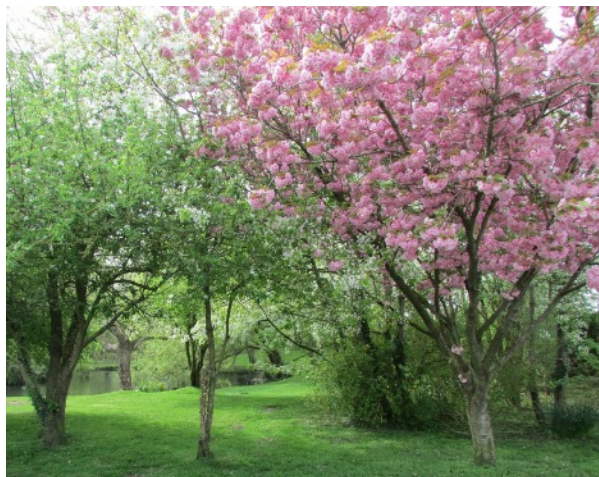


A Spring photograph,  
submitted by John  
Windibank. Many  
thanks, John!



Please send in more  
photographs. They need  
not have anything to do  
with groups' activities.  
They just have to be  
attractive!

## **FROM OUR CHAIR**

### **Yours, Ours or Theirs**

Following the offer of free computers to Hunstanton u3a members we (Ian Holland, David Sanderson and I) have been busy refreshing the kit with a new Operating System and buying new Keyboards, mice and WiFi dongles. The PCs are free and you need only bear the cost of the new peripherals (keyboard, etc.) at £25 to own one - a bargain. We have a few available for those that want one. We will have a PC at the Members Meeting on Monday 19th May for those that are interested. You will be able to try before you buy!

We were given these PCs because, like so many, they do not meet the specification to run Windows 11. Windows 10 Home and Pro support officially ends on October 14, 2025. After this date, Microsoft will no longer provide technical support, feature updates, or security updates for Windows 10. Apple has a similar attitude towards older hardware and as a result of their and Microsoft's policies perfectly acceptable hardware is being sent needlessly to landfill.

Alternative Operating Systems are available that can extend the useful life of 'older' PCs and in the process help 'save the planet' and your wallet. I would argue that these alternatives are superior to MS Windows and Apple MacOS. The message is clear: do not ditch your existing PC or laptop just because the supplier says so. There are alternatives which can extend the life of your device and in my opinion improve it. In our small way we are trying to recycle and reduce waste. A worthwhile objective.

The plot thickens as manufacturers are now not only prematurely writing off older equipment. They are also trying to control – and limit – what you can do with it. Using various mechanisms they 'lock' devices to prevent owners from adapting, customising or repairing their own possessions. This includes far more than just our PCs as it extends to cars, tractors, and beyond. The question of who owns the equipment that you have purchased has been muddled.

The 'Right to Repair' is now a movement trying to redress the balance and put owners back in control of their stuff. When you have a few moments please search for the right to repair for more info. Meanwhile, we are doing our bit in recycling a few PCs. You may wish to do the same.

**Norman**

# FROM OUR COMMITTEE

## Our Committee Members

<b>Role</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>email</b>
Chair	Norman Mitchell	<a href="mailto:chair@hunstantonu3a.org">chair@hunstantonu3a.org</a>
Vice Chair	Angela Blenkinsop	<a href="mailto:vicechair@hunstantonu3a.org">vicechair@hunstantonu3a.org</a>
Secretary	Virginia Young	<a href="mailto:secretary@hunstantonu3a.org">secretary@hunstantonu3a.org</a>
Treasurer	Pat Eckersall	<a href="mailto:treasurer@hunstantonu3a.org">treasurer@hunstantonu3a.org</a>
Membership Secretary	Annette Francis	<a href="mailto:memsec@hunstantonu3a.org">memsec@hunstantonu3a.org</a>
Events Co-ordinator	Verity Jowett	<a href="mailto:events@hunstantonu3a.org">events@hunstantonu3a.org</a>
Webmaster	Ian Holland	<a href="mailto:web@hunstantonu3a.org">web@hunstantonu3a.org</a>
Publicity / Noticeboard	Addie Thompson	<a href="mailto:publicity@hunstantonu3a.org">publicity@hunstantonu3a.org</a>
Speakers Secretary	Angela Blenkinsop (acting)	<a href="mailto:speakers@hunstantonu3a.org">speakers@hunstantonu3a.org</a>
Groups Co-ordinator	Jacquie Yaxley	<a href="mailto:groups@hunstantonu3a.org">groups@hunstantonu3a.org</a>
IT	Norman Mitchell	<a href="mailto:it@hunstantonu3a.org">it@hunstantonu3a.org</a>

By clicking on any email address in this list, you can email the committee member directly. Remember that you can also contact any member of the Committee by going to the Hunstanton u3a website and clicking on "Contact Us".

If you have an issue or query that you would like discussed at the next committee meeting, or wish to see the minutes of a particular committee meeting, please contact the Secretary with your request along with your full contact details.

## Computer Demonstration

There will be a demonstration of a desktop All-in-One computer on show at our meeting on Monday May 19 which will be available to our members.

The computer has a new keyboard and mouse and comes with Wi-Fi access to your home router; the price is £25.

**Ian Holland** Webmaster and Beacon Administrator

## Groups Update

Two major successful new groups this month. The guitar group is currently being restarted with Nick Lyall as group leader and the new Posh Afternoon Tea group which has been amalgamated with the Outings Group under the leadership of Mary Core. If you wish to join either of these groups then do please contact the leader via the website.

Under the heading of "Work in Progress" we are hoping to set up a new bird watching group. Eighteen members are currently interested and I'm now looking for someone (it can be shared between two members) to lead the group. You don't need to be an expert to lead a Group just be able to arrange meetings and keep track of members of the group. If you would like to lead or join this group then do please let me know. More details on this at the end of May.

Thank you to all of you who have replied to the Annual Audit. However, there are a number of members who haven't yet replied. I'd be really grateful if you could spare a minute or two just to check the email and let me have your reply. The audit ensures that our Beacon Admin system and the website are in tandem. A gentle reminder here for all Group Leaders to let me know when members either join or leave your groups.

Many groups still have availability for new members. Please contact the Group Leaders via the website if you wish to join any of these:

Apple IT Awareness	Art Appreciation	Arty-Facts
Backgammon	Book Group 1	Book group 2
Bucket List	Card and Board Games 1	Chess
Climate Change and the Environment	Country Music	Coffee and Chat
Crochet group 1	Crochet Group 3	Cryptic crosswords
Flower Arranging	French Conversation	Jigsaws
Local History	Mah Jong 8	Military Matters
Outings and Posh Tea	Painting	Pétanque
Photography	Pitch and Putt	Play Reading 3
Poetry	Recorders	Scrabble 1
Singing for Pleasure	Spanish Conversation	Strollers
Sunday Lunch for MOTO	Table Tennis	

So if you are interested in any of these or have ideas for any other groups (perhaps something you've always wanted to learn or a skill you'd love to share with others) then do please let me know at [groups@hunstantonu3a.org](mailto:groups@hunstantonu3a.org) I'd love to hear from you.

**Jacquie Yaxley** Groups Co-Ordinator

## FROM OUR GROUPS

### National Trust (NT) Textile Conservation Studio near Blickling

Many will be familiar with the BBC series 'Treasures of the National Trust' which has featured its textile conservation studio. It was with some anticipation that we were given a rather special insight into this world when we visited the studio in April. Only four such tours are given each year, so quite a privilege. We were met by Jane who explained that there are fifteen conservators (not all full time) who are trained to M.A. level. The studio operates as a business and the initial stage is for an estimate of cost to be given to the client (mostly NT).

Most work is done in the studio but sometimes may be on site. The studio is a large barn with a mezzanine floor, equipped with hoists, tables etc. and even a lab and dyeing room. The long-term stability of textiles is ensured through treatments such as surface cleaning, wet cleaning, solvent cleaning, dyeing support fabrics and threads, stitch and adhesive supports. We were then introduced in turn to the current work in progress and its conservator(s).



The first item had been worked on since 2022 and was part of the canopy of a state bed taken by the British Ambassador to Russia in the 1770s. Made of silk damask with central embroidery of metal thread and silk it had since been extended and repurposed as a counterpane. Some of the extensive water damage was still to be treated but we were told it may not be possible to remove it all.

Next came a chair, from a set of 'Dolphin' chairs from Ham House, Surrey dating from 1673 and possibly designed by a French emigré. The fabric from the seat, back and the fringe is separated for cleaning then strengthened by finely stitching the fabric to the original hemp lining and overlaid with fine net. The fringe is backed with new custom matched fringe. It is thought that Victorian restoration enhanced the red colouring but, as the policy of NT is to respect the history of the piece, it remains unchanged.

Many will have heard of the controversy surrounding the decision by NT not to restore Clandon Park, Surrey following a devastating fire in 2015. We were shown part of the damaged state bed which is being assessed for how it might be prepared for exhibition in 2029. A task more complicated because of contamination from the burning lead roof. It will not be restored but instead conserved in its current condition.

Now on to the 3x5m tapestries from Lyme, Cheshire that had been cleaned by De Wit, Belgium using giant suction tables which prevent the dye bleeding. Work started in November 2023 and has reached section 21 of 24 each of which measured 20cms It takes 86 hours per section and involves various repair stitches and using natural dyes for wool and cotton threads.

We were whisked away to the 1883 Durbar in India by means of a 'Peacock' dress designed for Lady Curzon by Worth, Paris. The gold and silver thread embroidery with beetle wings as eyes to the 'pheasant feathers' was done in Delhi. Gifted to the NT in 1997 by descendants, it had been at Kedleston Hall and on display for 25 years. Alterations had been made when it was worn again in 1905 and the task now is to return it to its original shape and to conserve.



An unusual task is that of 3 gondolier figures dating from 1956 and designed by Oliver Messel as stage props for a Glyndebourne opera. They had been at Knole, Kent but are needed for an exhibition at Nymans, West Sussex home of the Messel family. As the figures are made of papier-mâché and have the 'clothes' stuck on they require new glue and sprucing up.

And finally a glimpse into a new exhibition 'Tailoring an image' at Anglesey Abbey, Cambridgeshire this summer, are items from the Saville Row wardrobe of Lord Fairhaven. A silk dressing gown, pyjamas, gaiters, breeches and even a swimming costume,

Watch out for a new series of the 'Hidden Treasures of the National Trust' coming this spring.

**Margaret Oates**

## **FROM OUR MEMBERS**

### **Remembering Renée Weller 4th August 1935 - 24th April 2025**

Born in Sheffield, Renée Weller was a typical Yorkshirewoman – proud, opinionated, blunt-spoken and unapologetic about it. She was a member of Hunstanton u3a for many years, particularly enjoying Scrabble, even after ill-health prevented her from attending branch meetings. Some found her difficult, but for me she was a true friend.

I first met her properly during a u3a holiday to Jersey in 2017, when nine or ten of us enjoyed a wonderful week on Bergerac's island. After that Renée and I met over MOTO lunches and I began giving her lifts. We had much in common, including a sense of the ridiculous – our conversations frequently dissolved in laughter, often with ourselves as the butt. Soon we were meeting for coffee and chat, usually at her house as she grew less able. We had no need to use small-talk, not with the whole world and its troubles to discuss. She kept up with the news, as I do, and she really knew her history, subscribing to *Current Archaeology* and reading it cover to cover. Her memory for facts and details was phenomenal, right to the last.

She often spoke of recurring problems over her unusual name – Renée, which some pronounced ‘Reenie’ (wrong!). Her first schoolteacher, back in Sheffield, told her there was no such name, henceforth she would be known as Irene. Five-year-old Renée was not impressed. In fact, as she told me recently, her parents named her after the film and TV star Renée Houston – remember her? I replied. “My grannie told me about her”! More gales of laughter.

She was hoping to make it to August and her 90th birthday, but after a knee replacement a year or so ago, her health deteriorated. The last few weeks, she knew she was failing. But that was fine. She was still happy to wake up each morning in this wonderful world. “Aren’t we lucky?” was a frequent comment. Renée’s cup was always three-quarters full. She delighted in her garden, the flowers, the birds, the muntjak that visited, and she loved to don her disreputable red shorts and sit in the sun to get her legs brown. She adored music and films – Classic FM was a boon companion at all hours, and she knew the James Bond films backwards. She liked to refer to me as her ‘Wally’ – a quote from Crocodile Dundee, whose best friend back in Oz was named Wally. “A friend in need is a pest,” she would say with a gleam. Of course, she didn’t mean it.

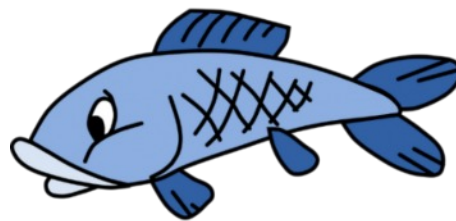
Yes, she had her blind spots. Don’t mention Immigrants! And as for Donald Trump... well, I imagine most of us would agree on that subject.

She deserves a whole book, but let this suffice for now. A snapshot of Renée Weller, my dear Wally, whose kindness, empathy, generosity and always merry company I shall miss very much. R.I.P. Ren. You have earned it.

**Mary Mackie**

## **Another Story from Arthur Chappell**

### A FISHY TALE



### OR: A BRIDGE TOO FAR

“Wow, would you just look at that?” Bob Danver’s voice was so loud and sudden that it made his close friend, Ricky Harben jump, so much so that he spilled some of his beer.

“Hey, look out Bob,” he cried “I nearly lost my drink then. What on earth’s the matter?”

“Just look mate. Just look.” And he pointed towards the door of the public bar of The Angler’s Rest. There, entering together, were two dishevelled rather scruffy figures, one somewhat taller than the other but both were dressed in oilskins, wellingtons and caps. That however was not the reason Bob cried out so loudly. It was what they carried in with them. A salmon. A beautiful big salmon. A magnificent salmon. Carried on an old towel but with obvious pride and care. The twosome made their way to the bar, called for the barman and proceeded to display their fish. Conversation ensued which ended with a quick handshake and then the handing over a wad of cash to the grubby pair. Obviously, a deal had been made and the recipients immediately began to celebrate their newly found wealth with large glasses of spirits. Bob watched, open mouthed. “I think we could do with some of that,” he whispered to Ricky. “Come on, let’s find out where they got it from,” and he headed over toward the celebrating duo.

He reached the pair who were attacking their beer with gusto, clinking glasses between every sip, and were obviously very pleased with themselves.

“Congratulations,” Bob exclaimed as he approached the pair. “That really was a most beautiful fish you brought in. My friend,” he indicated with a nod of his head toward Ricky, “and I would like to buy you both a drink as a way of expressing our admiration for your skills.”

“Well, that’s real nice of you,” said scruff number one, lifting his glass in acknowledgement. “I’m Barney and this here is my oppo, Ben.”

“Chuffed to meet you both. Blokes with skills to catch a beaut like that. What’ll you have? Another pint or

something stronger?”

“Cheers, that’s very nice of you. Wouldn’t mind a tot of rum for me and a whiskey for him,” Barney belched through his beer, “if that’s OK.”

“Of course it is. Our pleasure.” And turning to Ricky he said, “Do the honours will you mate?” giving him a sly wink and a whispered “Trust me, we’ve got to loosen their tongues a bit. We’ll stay on the beer but get them what they want”

As Ricky made his way to the bar, Bob chatted away, seemingly about nothing in particular whilst gleaned as much information as he could about the locality.

The drinks arrived and were soon dispatched so more were ordered and re-ordered, doubles at a time, until it was obvious that the dishevelled duo were becoming well and truly tiddly. “Now”, Bob thought, “it’s the right time. Tell me,” he asked nonchalantly, “how and where do you catch that magnificent fish?”

Much to his surprise it was the smaller of the two, Ben, who answered. His voice was slightly slurred and squeaky but quite loud.

“I’ll tell you what matey,” he proudly declared, with one hand on his glass and the other holding firmly onto the bar, “it’s a secret. Not even another of these could make me tell,” and he waved his now empty vessel towards Rick’s midriff.

“Fair enough,” replied Bob “if that’s what you think, we wouldn’t want you to tell us. But you must be very clever together because I don’t have a clue how you did it. Landing a great catch like that.”

“Oh that’s easy,” laughed Barney. “We tickled it, or should I say them.”

“Them?” echoed Bob and Ricky together.

“Yessir indeedy. We often drop one into the pub. He pays us handsomely he does,” and he nodded in the direction of the landlord who was polishing the far end of the counter. “It’s actually not difficult. Him” he pointed at Ben, “being so small makes it easy.”

“I don’t understand. Here, have another refill while you explain, to us two thickos.”

Now in full flight, slightly the worse for wear and feeling quite proud of his achievements, Barney explained in detail how he and Ben tickled the salmon the way people used to tickle trout. When Ricky said that he had heard of that but could not work out how the pair got close enough in the water to carry out the task Barney threw back his head and roared with laughter. “Tell ‘em Ben, just tell ‘em.”

“Well it’s like this,” Ben began. “There’s bridge over the river. A little stone bridge and Barney holds my ankles whilst I dangle down with my hands in the water ‘til fishy comes along. Then I tickles him till he becomes sort of, well, mesmerised. Then I grabs him and yell to be pulled back up, which is easy for Barney to do, and there you are. One fish well and truly caught.”

“Incredible,” cried Bob. “Absolutely incredible. And where is this bridge?”

“Now that’s a secret for Ben and me and nobody else. Thanks for the drinks, we’re off,” and with that he turned, grabbed Barney’s arm and they both, somewhat unsteadily, made for the door. Leaving the bemused Bob and Ricky staring at the row of empty glasses on the counter.

“Well that was a waste of money wasn’t it?” moaned Ricky staring into his now empty pint pot.

“No, not at all. Just think.” Bob declared, “There can’t be many stone bridges around this place. Let’s go and have a butchers around. When we find it we can do what they do. One of us goes over the side whilst he other hangs on till a salmon comes along. A tickle or two and wham-bam. A fish of our own and a few quid in our pockets.”

So the two friends made their way outside and decided which way to go in search of the bridge in question. Fuelled by a few beers they opted for the smaller road, not the main road they had come in by, thinking that they would have seen it when they arrived. They were not entirely wrong for very soon the pair spied a hump ahead and realised it was a stone bridge, just like the one described to them in the pub.

“Oh yes. We’ve found it. Just as I said we would,” exclaimed Bob. “Now you go over the side because you are lot smaller than me. Dangle your arms down and tickle. As soon as you’ve got anything yell and I’ll pull you back up.”

Reluctantly, Ricky agreed, but seeing the sense in the arrangement went over the parapet headfirst with Bob holding on tightly.

“Anything at all?” Bob called down to Ricky.

“No I need to get a bit lower if you can,” came back the somewhat strangled reply, then...

“Get me up. Get me up. Quick. Oh, quick”

“You’ve caught one already?”

“No. Oh no. Nooo. There’s a blooming train coming.”

### OOPs -WRONG BRIDGE

#### *What Can I Do?*

What can I do? I said with a smile,  
She looks and she sat for a while.

Talk to my grandad, he can tell  
Of the things he used to do,  
Show the key of the place he had lived  
And wanted to show me it too.

Grandma kissed me tidied my hair,  
Always with something to drink,  
I love she is warm and soft,  
She is the lovely one, I think.

Dad, he comes and goes, good strong  
And fair, works for us every day,  
He just wants to know we are OK  
As we go on our way.

Mum is the best looks after us all,  
Cooks and cleans, washes our hair,  
Fills us all full of good food,  
Always there to give and share.

Us children do our bit, we like to play  
And go to school, when it was there,  
Now we queue for food and drink, all day.



The bombs fall like winter rain,  
Her family has been blown away,  
Her arm and leg have gone.

The lovely eyes look up at me,  
Filled with tears and pain,  
What can I do? I said again.  
“Take me home”

## Forthcoming Meetings

- 19th May 2025** *Poetry and My Life* by Sandra Foley  
A mix of her life so far, tales from her teaching days and four poems.
- 16th June 2025** *Beekeeping* by Judith Evans MBE.  
The life cycle of the bee.
- 21st July 2025** *The Castaway Crew*  
A performance by this local acapella shanty group.

## QUIZ

### Pop Music Quiz

**David LeMoir**

joint leader of Rock Music Appreciation group

- Who is (or was) the lead singer, or singer out front, of:
  - The Hollies
  - The Dreamers
  - The Four Tops
  - The Supremes
  - Herman's Hermits
- What is (or was) the stage name of:
  - Mary O'Brien
  - Reg Dwight
  - Farrokh Bulsara
  - Paul Hewson
  - David Jones
- In 1965, whose trousers split on stage and virtually ruined his pop career?
- The group Love Sculpture had a UK number five hit with a re-working of *Sabre Dance*, a work by which classical composer?
- What was the name of the guitarist on that record? Here's another clue: as a solo artist, he later had a UK number one single with *I Hear You Knocking* in 1970.
- Which classic Liverpool pop song of the 1960s was recorded as an orchestral piece in 2019 by the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra?
- What was the maiden name of George Harrison's wife, who later became Eric Clapton's partner?
- In 1972 and 1982, Eric Clapton had big hits with which song that he wrote for her?
- What was the first UK record to top the US singles chart?
- Have a guess: Who had the biggest-selling single in the UK by a female artist in the 1960s?

*Answers at the end of this Newsletter*

## FROM OUR EDITOR

### Welfare

If you know of any member who is ill or has recently suffered a bereavement please contact Karen, our Welfare member. Karen will then send a suitable card from the u3a. Email [welfare@hunstantonu3a.org](mailto:welfare@hunstantonu3a.org)

### Change of Circumstances

If you change your address, telephone number (landline and/or mobile) or email address please ensure that you pass the new details to [memsec@hunstantonu3a.org](mailto:memsec@hunstantonu3a.org)

## Newsletter Copy Date

Items for the next newsletter are required by MONDAY 9TH JUNE 2025. Please send them to **BOTH** Sylvia at [newsletter@hunstantonu3a.org](mailto:newsletter@hunstantonu3a.org) AND David at [subeditor@hunstantonu3a.org](mailto:subeditor@hunstantonu3a.org). You will receive an acknowledgement of your contribution.

Please submit them in WORD, odt (e.g. from Libre Office) as email attachments. If you are including photographs, we need them as separate files – please do not embed them in the document – that causes us problems! No PDFs please.

### Thank You to.....

Our thanks to all who have contributed to this month's newsletter. Group Leaders: please encourage your members to tell us about one of your meetings. Please don't leave it to just a few groups to let us know what is happening.

## Answers to the Quiz

1.
  - a) Allan Clarke
  - b) Freddie Garrity
  - c) Levi Stubbs
  - d) Diana Ross
  - e) Peter Noone
2.
  - a) Dusty Springfield
  - b) Elton John
  - c) Freddie Mercury
  - d) Bono
  - e) David Bowie
3. P.J.Proby
4. Khachaturian
5. Dave Edmunds
6. *Ferry Cross The Mersey* written by Gerry Marsden of Gerry and the Pacemakers
7. Pattie Boyd
8. *Layla*. He also wrote other songs for her, including *Wonderful Tonight*, which was released as a single in several countries in 1978.
9. *Strangers on the Shore* by Acker Bilk. Incidentally, the first record by a UK *group* to hit number 1 in the US was *Telstar* by The Tornados, a few months later.
10. Cilla Black, with *Anyone Who Had A Heart* from 1964, her second single.