

Heybridge U3A

News Sheet No 4

May 2021

Your Committee

<https://u3asites.org.uk/heybridge>

Archive

www.heybridgeu3a.org.uk/archive/news.html

Registered charity number 1160360

Zoom Main Meeting May 14th 2.00 pm

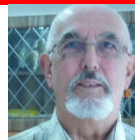
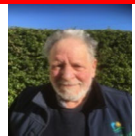
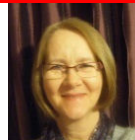
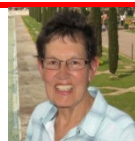

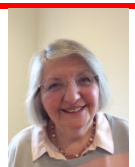



The talk subject will be on

The History of Jewellery given by Jason Middleton.

Check your email for the link to the Zoom meeting.

The Committee agreed to proceed with the AGM on 11th June by Zoom in view of the Covid restrictions.

AGM files will be sent out in w/c 24th May.

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NEWS FROM THE COMMITTEE

Chairman's report for May 2021 News Sheet.

April now past, but where is the warmth. Spring, although not much better than late winter, did give a beautiful display of flowers from mid Feb onwards, Tulips now fading and irises taking over.

By now I would hope that most if not all of us have had our second jabs, and are beginning to feel a little safer, looking forward to a life closer to the old normal. Do not let your guard down too soon and follow all remaining regulations until advised safe to do so.

AGM

Now I appeal to you all, if you value and want your U3A to continue to facilitate all the various and diverse group activities offered, and in the long run to carry on at all, we must have your help by stepping up and providing assistance to the secretary and treasurer in particular without whom we cannot function. General assistance is also always welcome. We have vacancies coming up and we do need you to volunteer; it is grossly unfair to expect officers to keep renewing their tenures especially when it goes against our constitution. We need to ensure that our U3A is 'for the members by the members' but not the same members year in year out ad infinitum.

I find it difficult to comprehend how, out of our total membership, that there are only 8 members who are dedicated enough to put in the time and effort to support so many.

Now I know that a number of you have held office and are, or have been, COGs running groups and that is admirable, but what of those who haven't and don't?

I also realise these comments will not sit comfortably with many, so feel free to e-mail me on heychair76@gmail.com and tell me why.

Norman Cumming, Chairman

From the Editor

The design of the Heybridge U3A News Sheet, and the reports that it contains, is a full-page layout of 14 pages in a large font. Information about the Committee Members and their reports can be found in the first few pages. A fun quiz can be found on Page 11 with answers on page 13. The next News sheet will be in June so send items by last Saturday in May 2021. I am very grateful to all the people who send material for inclusion. Have you anything to say? Please send it to me and I will include it.

Geoff Hadley editor@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

From the Membership Secretary

Attached to this newsletter is the Membership Form for 2021/22. This will be a 'year' of nine months starting 1st July 2021 until 31st March 2022. If you are able, please print the form, complete it and post it to me at the address given. You can enclose a cheque or do a Bank Transfer – just contact me for the account details and include your name as reference.

If you are unable to print the form, contact me to be sent a paper copy or you can complete it electronically and attach it to an email addressed to the Membership Secretary (see front cover). However you may still need to post a cheque if you do not do online banking.

Full and Dual Members who paid the full subscription of £18 (£13 Dual) last year will benefit from a discounted fee this year of £5.

Members who renewed for only £10 after 1st October 2020, and any new members, are asked for £13.50 (£18 x 75%). Dual Members who renewed after October should pay £8.50 this year.

If anyone is unsure about what they need to pay please contact me on the telephone number on the front page.

Renewal forms and payments should reach me by 1st July.

Philippa Moody membershipsecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Interest Group Co-Ordinator Report

What a difference a month makes! We are finally able to meet up in our gardens and even go out for lunch if the weather is good. I finally ventured to the Tiptree Jam Factory who have opened a garden at the side for visitors. We just enjoyed the sunshine with a lovely lunch and coffee and felt perfectly safe. I think that was the furthest I have driven for months! I hope more and more of you lovely members will feel able to do the same and even consider having your group to meet in each other's gardens soon, providing the group is a maximum of 6 people. I appreciate that some groups still won't be able to meet which is frustrating but you may want to consider meeting up for lunch or coffee & cake and a catch up instead.

Hilary Furniaux groupsc0-ordinator@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Monthly Meeting Speaker Programme

The British Humour in the Forgotten Art of the Picture Postcards: 1840-1950

In April Dr James Taylor gave us an interesting talk about the history of postcards. He has been collecting humorous postcards for more than 45 years. James spoke about the artist-drawn postcards, the most popular art form from the Edwardian era up to the outbreak of World War II. How they entertained, inspired, instructed and lifted-up the spirits. We heard about the popular themes and styles by the masters of the medium such as Mabel Lucie Attwell, Donald McGill and Fred Spurgin; and the reasons why their popularity waned with the British public..

On Friday 14th May we have a Zoom talk The History of Jewellery given by Jason Middleton.

Friday June 11th will be our AGM by Zoom Jan Brown speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Zooming with the u3a

A year ago we would never have thought that we would be unable to get together for our convivial meetings, whether it be the main meeting at Plantation hall or group meetings of various sorts. As it seems still a long way off before we can do resume most of our activities, it makes sense to do whatever we can to keep in touch and use the means that are available, such as Zoom, WhatsApp messaging, email and anything else you can come up with. It may not be ideal, but surely better than nothing.

Looking forward to the May meeting, we would love more to join us. If anyone would like to have a trial run on Zoom, or feel they need more practice, please email me on secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk to let me know and I will set up a session or give one-to-one help over the phone to iron out any technical difficulties - it's easy when you know how. A few people join without video if they don't have a camera on their laptop, some have a camera plugged in or use headphones. Any group can have a Zoom meeting set up for them if you contact me, and it can be run via the Heybridge U3A Zoom account so you don't need to worry about doing it yourself. The Photography group are dab hands at this and as well as sharing photos and expertise there always seems to be a bit of light-hearted banter.

Linda Etherton

Notice regarding the Annual General Meeting of Heybridge U3A

The Annual Meeting of Heybridge U3A will take place on Friday 11th June 2021 at 2.00pm via the Zoom platform. All members are invited to attend via this medium and polling will take place on the day. In addition any unable to attend will be given the opportunity to record their votes by completing and returning a ballot form. This will be issued in advance of the meeting and returns must be received by Monday 7th June by email or post to the secretary.

Committee vacancies

The following positions will need to be filled either because there is an existing vacancy, the current incumbent is stepping down or has completed three years in office and can be re-elected: Secretary, Editor, Events Secretary, Interest Group Co-ordinator, and Publicity Officer. A minute-taker will also be sought. Job descriptions can be made available to give an idea of what is involved.

A nomination form is being sent out: completed forms should be returned to the secretary by Friday 21st May. Electronic versions will be accepted but please ask the secretary if you need a paper version. Email: secretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk

Publicity

Wednesday 2nd June will be the national U3A awareness day. In normal times we might be planning various activities but this year we decided locally that the restrictions on socialising make that impractical. We are hoping to get some media coverage for our cluster of U3A's and of course we can all spread the word. Tell a friend!

AP

GROUP REPORTS

Bird Watching

The March outing came late to fit with Covid rules so we have had 2 visits in April. The first was to Abberton Reserve where just a few of us were lucky enough to see a ringed ouzel but most of us did see a few yellow wagtails, chiffchaff and skylarks. We were just too early in the year to hear the nightingales which are singing hard there now.

Our second outing was to Heybridge Basin. Although the tide was in, which meant there was little mud for the birds to feed from we still managed to see a good mix of small birds in the bushes around the gravel pits. It is a great time of year for birds as not all the winter visitors have left; godwits and Brent geese still to be seen, and the summer visitors are arriving fast. The cuckoo is back as are the common terns and a lovely little willow warbler.



Common Tern at basin



Willow Warbler

Next month we hope to head for Tollesbury Wick. If any of you would like to join us please contact Maureen Lenoir. (symockturtle@yahoo.co.uk or jill.mcgregor@btinternet.com)

Croquet Report

At last, as COVID restrictions are beginning to ease, the Maldon Croquet Club have been able to invite our Group back to play on the croquet lawns at Forresters Golf Club. We will be playing on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday afternoons each summer month.

The change of day and time has not suited everyone but, most of the group are hoping to start back on May 12th. Hopefully we will all be able to play, although COVID restrictions will make things a bit interesting as regards handling of mallets etc. and restrictions on numbers.

Anne Newsom

Discussion Coffee Morning Group

Well, the shops are open and we can eat and drink outside if we choose that option.

At the time of writing the sun has been shining for a few days but unfortunately the cold wind arrived at the same time, making outside eating a little less appealing.

Counting down now, 12th May will hopefully ease restrictions a little more.

Thank goodness we can work in the garden; everything is starting to grow again.

Only another month or so and we will possibly be thinking about our U3A meetings back in the Hall again.

In the meantime, let's enjoy what we have and hopefully better things for us all in the future.

Best wishes to all. Margaret Brown

Family History

Bit of a dodgy looking character, isn't he?

This is David Bugby the maternal great grandfather of Family History member Marjorie Mead. David was born in 1850 in Great Catford Huntingdon.

The 1851 census records him aged 3 months living with his parents John and Sarah in his Grandparents home.

By 1870 (aged 18+) he was convicted of stealing 3 rabbit traps and was sentenced to prison with hard labour.

CRIME & PUNISHMENT

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Prisoner record from Huntingdon

Introduction
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Offence details
Name: David Bugby
Age: 18
Date of Offence:
Offence: Stealing 3 rabbit traps
Sentence: 3
Type of trial: Summary

Detention details
Intended residence when free: Great Catworth

Personal details
Height: 5 ft 1 1/2 inches
Hair colour: Light Brown
Eye colour: Grey
Complexion: Fresh
Identifying marks: Cut on right eyebrow
Trade or occupation: Labourer
Marriage status: Single
Number of children: Unknown

Residence details
Birth parish: Great Catworth
Residence parish: Great Catworth

Further details
If you have any more information about this prisoner, please [let us know](#).

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vcp.e2bn.org/prisoners/1817-1811-david-bugby.html 06/12/20

Handwritten note: Convicted 1870 3 months hard labour

Signature: MEHEW-STEVENSON
bibiraddi

Sounds a bit excessive by today's standards – but maybe it worked!!

In 1873 David married Jane Elizabeth Green in Northamptonshire and had 5 children.

Sarah, Minnie, Florence, Nellie and John.

By 1904 he's in trouble again with the law, convicted of cruelty to a horse at Wanstead Flats Essex, for working her while she was lame.

He was fined 5/- shillings, (£15.00) plus 14/6 (£45.00) court costs.

David died in West Ham in 1920.

I'm surprised he wasn't transported. Australia welcomed (and needed) young strong men regardless of the offence committed.

If he had, Marjorie might now be teaching us to play the digeridoo.

Faced with crimes or misdemeanors in our families today, we would be horrified and embarrassed, but with family history we all have a sneaking desire to uncover something unsavory or scandalous, it becomes infinitely more exciting.

Martin Perry remembers years ago his grandfather whispering "we don't talk about them" with reference to distant relatives he knew little about and, at that time, wasn't remotely interested in..... he is now, but with little success! I've always thought Albert Pierrepont as an ancestor would be a tad interesting!

Take care

Jean Rogers

French conversation: May



May Day in France is symbolised by lilies of the valley, commonly known as 'muguet' (*pronounced 'moogay'*) in French. It's a woodland plant with sweetly scented bell-shaped white flowers which grow in shady locations around end April/ early May. One tradition has it that the flower came into being from Eve's tears when she was forced to leave the Garden of Eden, while another attributes its existence to the Virgin Mary as a result of the tears she shed at the Crucifixion. On 1st May, lily of the valley is sold everywhere on streets across France and is one of the symbols of springtime and good luck.

The tradition of offering lilies of the valley dates back to 1st May 1561, when King Charles IX of France received a lily of the valley as a lucky charm. As a result, he decided to offer a sprig of lily of the valley to the ladies of his court.

From the beginning of the 20th century, it became the custom on 1st May to give a bunch of Lily of the valley to relatives, friends, colleagues and, in the case of school children, their teacher, as a token of appreciation.

May 1st in France is also the Fête du Travail (Labour Day). As it's a Bank Holiday, most shops are closed and demonstrators take to the streets to campaign for, and celebrate, workers' rights.

Jenny Parker

History talks on Zoom

Limebrook and Blackwater u3a's are inviting Heybridge members interested in history to join them for their talks.

As Limebrook u3a are using outside speakers there is a charge of £3.00 per talk. Just email Mike Stringer at mike.stringer19@btinternet.com for the details.

There is no charge for Blackwater talks just email me at speakersecretary@heybridgeu3a.org.uk and I will email you the Zoom link.

Programme of talks

We have another talk on Thursday 6th May, again at 10.30am, from Jo Livingston, on the Volunteer Fire Brigade. This talk is free; Jo is on the national u3a research committee and regularly gives talks to u3a groups. Joining details for this talk will be sent to all group members about a week beforehand. (Limebrook)

Tuesday 18th May @ 10.30am. "In the wake of the Mayflower" by Cathy Shelbourne. Over 25 million of us apparently are descended from those who set sail from Plymouth in 1620 on board The Mayflower, bound for a new life in the New World. In this year after the 400th anniversary, we look at the voyage itself and the expedition's legacy. We will also have the opportunity to discuss any links with us in Maldon, few may be aware that the Mayflower's captain is believed to have hailed from our town! (Limebrook)

Tuesday 15th June @ 10.30am. "Entertainment in Wartime Britain" by Mike Brown. A look at how the entertainment industry fared during the War, when the lights were going out across Europe. Did our theatres close, like they have during the pandemic, or did life go on? (Limebrook)

Jan Brown



This will be the last list of music links for a while as after the marathon of the alphabet I feel I need a rest! Though if any of the group members would like to circulate a list of their favourite music then I will be happy to write a report on that.

Philippa Moody

Needlecraft Group Report

I think, like a lot of people, our group has been making the most of the nicer weather and spending time in their gardens. This month our little group has knitted some more very pretty dolls clothes including booties and bonnets. We have all agreed to meet up in May in my garden so hopefully next month I can report with first-hand knowledge what everyone has been making!

Hilary Furniaux

Painting 2

We are all still hoping to resume our monthly meetings on 2nd Monday of each month in the Claydon Room. The dates will be: _ (Unlikely) 12th July. but more likely 9th August, and, almost definitely, 13th September, 11th October, and 8th November.

I have been inspired intermittently to paint landscapes, and portraits almost always with acrylics and have been studying a book by Hashim Akib which cost about £15, but now I see on Amazon can be bought for £8. It is extremely useful for anyone interested in Acrylics. Mostly I use the acrylic paint as you would watercolours - the advantage is that you can cover mistakes but a disadvantage is that they dry up very quickly so you need a wet box with a lid to keep unused paint.

Sorry I have no more news except to say that I have discovered in the last few days that Prince Philip the Duke of Edinburgh was an accomplished painter and owned about 2,000 works of Art received as gifts. He was taught by renowned artist Edward Seago on a 1956 voyage to Antarctica. I do believe that I will see you all soon so keep painting and keep safe.

P.S. I recently heard that David Hockney, who is now 83, has bought a house in Normandy, and has been painting trees and blossom in his garden for an exhibition at the Royal Academy at the end of May. He has made a long strip like the Bayeaux Tapestry so it should be very interesting

Barbara Barbrook

Papercraft Group

April has seen us making Easter decorations, Birthday cards for friends, a Grandson, Great Niece and a Granddaughter card and lots of flowers cut out and foiled for a Special Birthday card. We have discussed getting together in my garden in May for a crafting session which we are very excited about!

Lesley Woonton

Patchwork Group

I'm afraid the time has come for me to give up my position as CoG of the patchwork group. I am hoping that someone from the group will take on the job as I have spoken to them all explaining my decision. I will arrange a meeting outside when we are allowed more than six in a gathering and we can have a discussion regarding the future of the group. In the meantime happy sewing and keep safe.

Anne

Petanque Group

Well, we finally had our first game of Petanque in the Maldon Prom. And what a joy it was to be able to get out and play, as well as seeing friends again. The weather was lovely and sunny; we couldn't have picked a better day to play after being shut in for 3 months of lockdown.

We are all so looking forward now to be able to carry on, and hopefully the weather will be kind to us as well. Thank you everyone for your continued support to me throughout this past year.

Moir

Photography Group

Twelve members joined our Zoom meeting to view the assignment set at our previous meeting to produce three photos representing subjects with titles beginning in either **M** or **N** (or both). A total of 42 images were submitted including some from members who were unable to attend. It always surprises me how wide a range of subjects our members can find - from: "nails and nuts"; "mating magpies"; "nibs" and of course "mud". Each image was discussed in turn and we seemed to forget that this was a virtual meeting. There was so much interest in these photos, the meeting continued for the full two hours. It truly compiled with the **New Motto** of the u3a - "Learn, laugh, live". We did all three in bucketful's. Who said Zoom meetings are dull and unreal?

I have selected two photographs as a sample of the thoughtful images presented. Carol's "Nuts and Nails", many of us considered this a modern photograph full of interesting colours and suitable for hanging on a wall. Pat Yates "Maldon Mud" is a well observed shot taken at the Sea Lock outlet at Heybridge Basin. The composition takes the eye out into the estuary and the lighting emphasises the wet mud and how much you don't want to fall in!



Maldon Mud Pat Yates



Nuts and Nails

Carol Greenhalgh

We will continue to hold Zoom meetings on the first Thursday of each month until we are able to meet again as a group.

For those who were unable to join the meeting all of the photos submitted have been uploaded to our page on Flickr (Heybridge U3A) where you will be able to view them. If you would like a link to them please contact me.

If anyone is interested in joining our Zoom meetings to see what the group is about please contact me and I will forward you a link to our next meeting. All members of the U3A are welcome

Norman Grove

Scrabble Group

As it is somewhat difficult to play Scrabble in a socially-distant way I am still sending a monthly puzzle to group members and setting one here for you to try.

Last month I asked you to find another word from these letters:

S ₁	C ₃	A ₁	U ₁	R ₁	E ₁	D ₂
----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------	----------------

You could have made the word CRUSADE, with a potential score of 70 points if you were able to play this as the first word on the board. SCAURED is an obscure word meaning the same as SCARRED, so well done if you knew that.

Try this one. You might have one of these three sets of six tiles left to play at the end of a game, two of which can be made into valid words and one cannot. Which are the two anagrams and which is fruitless? If you can play all the letters you will win!

C	O	T	M	A	I
3	1	1	3	1	1

A	O	R	M	C	I
1	1	1	3	3	1

A	O	M	C	I	S
1	1	3	3	1	1

Linda Etherton

Walking Group

And we're off ---. Our first group walk for more than a year. 14 of us met on April 15th and separated into groups, 2 of 5 and 1 of 4, heading out for a walk through Elms Farm Park, along the canal towpath, crossing a couple of stiles to Ulting Road and back to our start /finish via the old Langford & Ulting railway halt.

It was chilly with a hint of rain on the way until the final approximately 300yds when we had a short sharp hail shower. We all felt the joy of walking in company - even given the Covid restrictions. No tea/coffee chat at the end but that will come, we hope, during the summer. Given the ongoing Covid timetable, we shall plan to have our May walk on the third Thursday in May when the strict 6 in a group **may** be lifted to allow us all to walk as one group. It felt as though the Covid cloud had lifted albeit slightly.

Linda Wells.

Yoga and Wellbeing Group

We held our first Zoom Group meeting on 14th April, which went well and lasted one hour. Bette presented an exercise video of Sherry Zac doing chair exercises to a catchy pop tune. The group have made progress with reading the "Mindfulness" book and one member is relaxing herself in readiness for her impending operation. We wish her a very speedy recovery.

We are planning a therapy walk through an ancient bluebell wood to enjoy the birdsong, beauty of the flowers and the tranquillity of our surroundings.

Our following Zoom meeting date is **2pm Wednesday 28th April 2021 then 12th May.**

Please contact me if you would like to join our group or require further information.

Gloria Bomford Group COG

Who was the first.....

1. Astronaut to travel in outer space?
2. Athlete to run a sub 4 minute mile?
3. Climber to reach the summit of Mt.Everest?
4. Surgeon to perform a successful heart transplant?
5. Man to fly solo across the Atlantic?
6. Woman to fly solo across the Atlantic?
7. Person to fly across the English Channel?
8. Man to walk on the moon?
9. Wife of Henry VIII?
10. British Prime Minister?
11. Woman in outer space?
12. Duo to be entered into the Rock N Roll Hall of Fame?
13. Woman to present Grandstand?
14. Man to sail non-stop, single handed around the world?
15. Briton to win Nobel Prize for Literature?
16. Woman to win a Nobel Prize?
17. Woman to be made Poet Laureate?
18. Horse to win the Grand National 3 times?
19. Person to be pictured on a British postage stamp?
20. Man to appear on Channel 4 in 1982?

Rumblings from Peter

The rumblings might soon be over. No, not a change of pills but of our lives. My essays were intended to help fill the newsletter and I hope have entertained you. Now as we hopefully return to a more normal life and CoGs' will be writing reports, I'll be redundant.

Occasionally I agree with our chairman, having read his draft report for this month I certainly do. The committee need help, YOUR help, it's your club, and we constantly need new, vibrant ideas plus people to help carry them out so as to move forward and thrive. OK, as vice-chair I just sit there, nod sagely at times then return to my crossword, but don't be deterred by the excellent work done by others and if you step forward those committee doyens will help you slot in and who knows? Believe me; we do need new ideas, new brains, and new people. PLEASE help YOUR Heybridge U3A.

So, I enjoy discovering "things". The cut and laid slabs of stone, "tramlines" for long gone ponies and carts hauling rock from the quarries (Dartmoor), the isolated hovel housing a water turbine driven generator (Dales), or a hand operated swing bridge plus rowing boat and bridge man (bridge of May, Caledonian Canal). Foxton, a 10-flight lock on a branch of the Grand Union Canal, is unique anyway, even more so when completely empty of water for maintenance! Sowerby Bridge (nr Halifax) the deepest lock in the UK.

Wales: been in a copper mine (mind your head) a slate mine (cavernous) and down a coal mine. Noted at old Solva the TV aerials on the far skyline, the wires coming from the valley side, across a stream and disappearing into various abodes, no mobile phone signals there then either!

Exmoor, a clicking water powered pump pumping its own powering water back up the valley side, a receptor, a non-return valve and pipe! East Anglia, a man made pond where local women had taken sheaves of flax straw to soak and soften so they could obtain the fibres to make linen. Oh and the water was from Pingoland! That is a very, very few indeed

To finish, a conundrum, you are given a "lucky" horseshoe to hang on your front porch, which way up should it go, ends pointing up or down?

Now for today's excitement? A HAIRCUT

Do you use Facebook? Why not join the Heybridge U3A group.

We now have our own group on Facebook. Our Facebook group is a closed one; Philippa is the administrator who acts as the gate-keeper. Please see her report for more details. The Facebook group will supplement the news-sheet, not replace it.

Essex Fraud Alert

If you, or someone you know, is vulnerable and has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101.

Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at www.actionfraud.police.uk or call 0300 123 2040.

Barry Linton of Thorpe Bay u3a and an Association Committee Member is involved with the Essex Police working as a volunteer within the Fraud and Scam Protection Team, particularly those scams that may target older people. He is a fully recognised speaker on Cybercrime protection by Essex Police.

With Essex Police support he maintains a Fraud Alert web page on the Thorpe Bay u3a website. A link to this can be found on the Association of Essex u3as website. Visit the site and click on Fraud Alerts button and this will take you to information on this and a link to Thorpe Bay website. <https://u3asites.org.uk/thorpebay/page/107669>

Janice

Business Secretary

Answers

1. Yuri Gagarin 2.Roger Bannister 3.Edmund Hillary /Sherpa Tensing 4.Christiaan Barnard
5.Charles Lindbergh 6.Amelia Earhart 7.Louis Bleriot 8.Neil Armstrong 9.Katherine of Aragon
10.Robert Walpole 11.Valentina Tereshkova 12.Everly Brothers 13.Helen Rollason 14.Robin
Knox-Johnston 15.Rudyard Kipling 16.Marie Curie 17.Carol Ann Duffy 18.Red Rum 19.Queen
Victoria 20.Richard Whitely