



# HELC NEWSLETTER

<http://www.helc.org.uk>

**May 2020**

<b>President's Message</b>	<a href="#"><u>Page 2</u></a>
<b>Chairman's Message</b>	<a href="#"><u>Page 3</u></a>
<b>Announcements</b>	<a href="#"><u>Page 4</u></a>
<b>Have a "Night Out" - At Home</b>	<a href="#"><u>Page 5</u></a>
<b>HELC Holiday Breaks: Past and Future</b>	<a href="#"><u>Page 7</u></a>
<b>Memories of the start of WW2 and VE Day</b>	<a href="#"><u>Page 10</u></a>
<b>The A1 Locomotive Trust</b>	<a href="#"><u>Page 11</u></a>
<b>Obituary - Tony Ware</b>	<a href="#"><u>Page 13</u></a>
<b>Exploring London Quiz</b>	<a href="#"><u>Page 14</u></a>
<b>Lockdown Lingo</b>	<a href="#"><u>Page 15</u></a>
<b>Breaking News</b>	<a href="#"><u>Page 16</u></a>
<b>Committee Members</b>	<a href="#"><u>Page 17</u></a>

## PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

Hello Everyone.

I am now at the end of my 7th week in lockdown isolation. I started a week earlier than government regulations on the advice of my son who is an eminent medical consultant. I am now a different individual to the one I was 7 weeks ago.

Isolation has had its affect on me psychologically and mentally. Like so many of you I live alone but very mobile with plenty of friends and visitors. Isolation soon became a social and cultural shock to me.

One thing was missing, that of human contact and conversation. So I texted my two sons daily to confirm that I was still alive and OK.

Secondly, I realised that I was going through the day without speaking a word, not even to myself. To overcome this I selected a few CD,s of popular songs and singers of the 40s, 50s and 60s. I played them non-stop throughout the day and soon found myself singing along with them. I have now recovered my bathroom basso profundo voice.

I now make regular phone calls to family and friends and some neighbours and the whole situation has escalated with folks calling me.

This has set me thinking, the club has some one hundred members and at the last count we have an average age of 80 plus some of whom are living alone. Please think seriously about selecting two members from the list and give them a call for a chat. Who knows you might get a call yourself.

Play a few of your favourite CD's and sing along with Vera Lynn.

Thank you for your patience in reading this note and in conclusion I wish you all and your families a safe and uneventful end to all that you are having to endure and look forward to our next lunch together.

***Peter Arrigoni***

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

When over 100 of us met and celebrated our HELCL Christmas Lunch last December, none of us could have foreseen how much our way of life would change just three months later. Although our first two meetings of 2020 were held as planned and with interesting guest speakers, our March meeting sadly had to be cancelled with only one week of notice and, in view of all that has happened since, that was clearly the right decision that hopefully helped to protect the health of our members. This current situation is a challenge to us all as it is one that none of us have ever experienced before in our lifetime.

Since then, we started self-isolating immediately and, as I write this, the country is in lockdown which, although helping to reduce the number of new Covid 19 infections and protecting some of our most vulnerable people, comes with its own heavy cost; much reduced personal mobility, greater isolation from family and friends, disruption of children's education and, for many, the temporary or permanent loss of their job and income. We must reflect that most of us are more fortunate than some younger folk.

The heroes of the day are surely the front line workers in the NHS and all the other essential workers who, at great risk to themselves are caring for people who have become ill or maintaining essential services and supplies for us all. Many public-spirited volunteers are directly helping quarantined neighbours or, through local organisations, are helping with essential shopping, collecting prescriptions, dog walking or being part of a listening service for those who must not venture out.

Let's hope that we are seeing the first signs of Covid 19 being contained and that it will ultimately be beaten.

I am tremendously encouraged by the positive attitude of those HELCL members with whom I have been in contact over the past few weeks and I'm pleased that some of you are keeping in touch with others from the Club. Have you considered meeting together informally in groups using modern technology such as Skype, FaceTime, WhatsApp or Zoom? The basic versions of some of these systems can be downloaded free to computers, tablets and smart phones. Some members already have such systems so why not plan to meet up virtually with your HELCL friends? I recently attended a short "Coffee and Zoom" Rotary meeting that went very well indeed and brought friends together again for an hour.

It may be some months before we can meet again as a club and I hesitate to say "as normal" as the post-Covid 19 "normal" might be very different from the past but HELCL Committee are continuing to work together and meet (by Zoom) to plan for the Club's future but mindful that flexibility of approach will be needed. I am greatly encouraged by the number of HELCL members who volunteered to write an article for this HELCL May Newsletter and thank them for doing so. Your HELCL Newsletter is another way of keeping in touch and I hope you will enjoy reading it.

Above all, take care, stay safe and stay well!

***John Hammond***

## ANNOUNCEMENTS

### LUNCHES

Due to the present government restrictions the May lunch has been cancelled and it looks increasing likely that the June and even the July lunches will also need to be cancelled. For this reason no lunch booking forms are included in this issue. If and when circumstances change and it becomes practical to resume the lunches, members will be notified by a separate email.

### TALKS

Along with the lunches our talks have had to be cancelled or postponed until further notice. However some of our speakers may be able to deliver their talk online using Zoom. The last Committee meeting was held using Zoom and it worked very well. Up to 100 people (more if two people come in on the same device) can take part in a Zoom meeting so in principle it is ideal. You do not need to have a Zoom account to join in. Of course you would have to supply your own lunch!

What do members think of this idea? Would you join in? Feedback please as soon as possible to the Speaker Secretary, Roy Franklin, SpkrSecretary@helc.org.uk

### CANTERBURY VISIT 18-22 OCTOBER 2020

The Canterbury visit has already been postponed from April until 18-22 October 2020, but that date could still be problematic because of Social Distancing rules. Discussions with Cannon Travel are ongoing but the advice is that as things are still very uncertain, especially for our age group, we should consider moving the trip to Spring 2021. No firm date has yet been decided, but Cannon Travel are looking into the feasibility of 25th April or 8th May thus avoiding Bank Holiday. Either of these dates are dependent on hotel availability.

If such a new arrangement is agreed, then the options for Members will be one of the following categories:

1. Cannon Travel continues to hold the £50 per person deposit you have paid and you choose to join the rebooked holiday in 2021.  
Or
2. Your deposit of £50 per person or Full Payment, is returned as you no longer wish to join the holiday in 2021.  
Or
3. Your Full Payment received for April and carried over to October is retained OR returned, but you still wish to join the holiday.  
Or
4. You book for the first time to join this holiday. A new Booking Form will become available when arrangements are confirmed.

When a new date is confirmed I will contact all those already booked in categories 1-3 to see which of the above you wish to do. For category 4 a New Advert will be published in the first available Newsletter.

Sorry for all the complications and STAY SAFE.

For any queries contact Shirley Greatrex: contact details in distributed copy of Newsletter.

## Have a night out - at home

This article is to give you some ideas to keep you entertained at home whilst you can't go out, most are free. As nobody knows when the lockdown restrictions will be lifted it is possible that some of the theatre venues will have stopped streaming their shows by the time you read this.

### Theatre

National Theatre is continuing to offer high-quality entertainment by streaming some of its most successful productions of recent years for free. Upcoming broadcasts include Twelfth Night (From 23 - 30 April). To view the full schedule, go to <https://www.nationaltheatre.org.uk/nt-at-home>.

The screenings take place on the theatre's YouTube channel at <https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCUDq1XzCY0NIOYVJvEMQjgw>.

The Globe Theatre is streaming a free Shakespeare play in its entirety every fortnight on its Globe Player portal: <https://globeplayer.tv>. There's also a range of other free-to-view content - just click the 'Free content' option on the sidebar to browse it.

Wind in the Willows is available to stream at [www.willowsmusical.com](http://www.willowsmusical.com). This is Julian Fellows' much-admired London Palladium adaptation of Kenneth Grahame's children's novel. The film was available to stream online for free for a strictly limited period but you are still able to enjoy the film for a small charge, click 'Rent for £2.99'. After renting the film, you can stream it for 72 hours after pressing play for the first time.

Chichester Festival Theatre: <https://www.cft.org.uk>. An archive recording of Flowers for Mrs Harris is available to view until 8th May.

Hampstead Theatre: <https://www.hampsteadtheatre.com/whats-on/hampstead-theatre-at-home> will be streaming a production of #aiww: The Arrest of Ai Weiwei until 3rd May.

Sadler's Wells is streaming a selection of free dance performances and workshops from its Digital Stage at <https://www.sadlerswells.com/whats-on/2020/digital-stage>.

Broadway hits: [www.broadwayhd.com](http://www.broadwayhd.com) Sign up for Broadway HD and you'll get a seven-day free preview of its selection of before you have to start paying (around £7 per month).

### Opera, Ballet and Classical Concerts

A wide variety of venues and orchestras are providing free ways to enjoy classical music from your home during the lockdown.

Royal Opera House, OurHouseToYourHouse: <https://www.youtube.com/royaloperahouse>

English National Ballet: <https://www.ballet.org.uk/enb-at-home>. There are highlights available from recent performances on the above website or YouTube, including Sleeping Beauty etc.

London Philharmonic Orchestra: <https://www.lpo.org.uk/lponline.html>

Berlin Philharmonic's Digital Concert Hall: <https://www.digitalconcerthall.com/en/ticket/register>

Click Register Now and enter your details, then check for the confirmation email in your inbox.

Click the Confirm Your Email Address link, then go to <https://www.digitalconcerthall.com/en/tickets> and enter the code BERLINPHIL at the bottom of the page. Once you've done this, click the Concerts tab to choose a concert to watch. You can also watch by downloading the Digital Concert Hall app on your phone or tablet and logging in with the account you created.

Gothenburg Symphony Orchestra: <https://www.gso.se/en/gsoplay>

They call it GSOPlay, watch online or download the app, free for 30 days, for new concerts available every Tuesday and Friday. To download and save concert recordings you will need to upgrade to Premium \$8.99 for 6 months.

Metropolitan Opera, New York, is streaming performances from its 14-year archive of cinema transmissions for free. Go to <https://www.metopera.org/user-information/nightly-met-opera-streams> to view the schedules. Each show starts streaming at 12.30am in the UK, but you can replay them for up to 23 hours. To enjoy one of the performances, visit [www.metopera.org](http://www.metopera.org) and click Watch Now. The streams are also available through the Met Opera on Demand apps.

## Museums and Galleries

The British Museum: <https://www.britishmuseum.org> has a virtual gallery tour via Google Street View and a series of Curator's Corner YouTube videos revealing fascinating stories behind the collections. It has also teamed up with Google to create a fantastic interactive Museum of the World tour at <https://britishmuseum.withgoogle.com>, which lets you view selected artefacts from different eras and listen to audio information about each one (this takes a little time to load).

Google Arts & Culture: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner> features content from over 2000 leading museums and archives who have partnered with the Google Cultural Institute to bring the world's art into your home. Install the Google Arts & Culture app to explore virtual reality tours.

The Guggenheim Museum, New York: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/solomon-r-guggenheim-museum>. As well as viewing several contemporary art exhibitions you can stroll through the museum via a Google Street View: scroll down the page and click on Explore Interior Street View. Use the numbers on the right to move up and down floors.

The National Gallery: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/the-national-gallery-london>. There are 270 paintings in virtual reality or you can browse a 360 tour on desktop, mobile or tablet.

The Uffizi in Florence: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/uffizi-gallery?hl=en>

The Hermitage in St Petersburg: <https://artsandculture.google.com/partner/the-state-hermitage-museum>.

And finally a virtual tour that is not connected with Google. The Vatican Museum: <http://www.museivaticani.va/content/museivaticani/en/collezioni/musei/tour-virtuali-elenco.1.html>

***Ian Williamson***

***20/04/20***

## HELIC Holiday Breaks: Past and Future

by Shirley Greatrex

This article looks back to the holidays jointly organised by my husband Peter and myself since 2011. New Members and those who have not participated in the past may find it of interest to learn what has happened in the last 10 years and maybe offer suggestions for future holidays. There are some anecdotes for participants to recall!

The very first trip was a walking holiday in May 2011. The trip was booked by Peter using HF Holidays, a Company specialising in organised walking holidays in Great Britain and abroad. Members drove to the venue in Dovedale, Derbyshire. My recollection is of Frank Taylor sizing up walking poles in a Sports shop in Bakewell. We were so much fitter then! We walked 7-10 miles every day with packed lunches and enjoyed good evening meals. Following the success of this holiday Peter organised two further HF trips to Bourton-on-the-Water in 2012 and Church Stretton in 2013. Sadly, a walking holiday at Blakeney, Norfolk, had to be cancelled at the last minute due to horrific floods at the hotel. Running parallel to these holidays HELIC began regular Walks based on Pub Lunches and there was a great overlap of interested Members between the two events.

In October 2011 Peter organised our first trip using Cannon Travel (CT). The process involved identifying places of interest, some with engineering context, so that CT could organise them into an itinerary. The advantages of using CT were many, but the most important was that a Tour Manager was provided, who would take responsibility for the group 24/7, thus relieving Peter and myself of the responsibility. This first trip was an ambitious visit to the North East, based in Newcastle at a hotel overlooking the Tyne and close to the famous Swing Bridge linking Newcastle to Gateshead. Looking back it is quite amazing to realise that we visited so much; Hardwick Hall, Craggside (NT), Durham, Angel of the North, Lindisfarne, Beamish Museum and more.

Two trips were organised in 2012. The first was the HF walking holiday to Bourton-on-the-Water where we were blessed with hot sunny weather. As this was Olympic Year we practised our sporting skills. I tried to play Croquet at the hotel, "coached" by Vernon Clough.

In October we tried a "take yourself" trip to Great Yarmouth with an interesting itinerary. It went well, but everyone needed to be responsible for their own transport: most drove, but a few came by train. So Great Yarmouth proved to be a gastronomic haven. Our hotel overlooked the wind turbines in the North Sea. The restaurant accommodated us like sardines in what felt like a basement, but the free choice from the menu of exquisite food turned into a topic we still speak about. The Manager provided us with a Wine Tasting one evening, with the added touch of matching the effect of different foods on the wines. I took from this that the cheapest red wine tastes ok with cheese.....hence the craze of "wine and cheese" parties in the 1970s. Another memory was our Blue Badge tour of Norwich City led by a retired ballerina, who tiptoed her way at speed in 4" stilettos! We saw the delights of this mustard city. John and Wendy Mose ran with us from the Kipper/herring museum back to the hotel all along the promenade to avoid getting thoroughly soaked.

The success of these visits provided the basis for the future. The core features of visits thereon were established. An National Trust property, or similar, would be our stop-off point en route to the hotel and on the return journey. An interesting city would be the focus. A Blue Badge Guide would accompany a walking tour of this city. There would be three days of organised trips to places of Engineering or other interest, with lunches provided. An evening quiz was introduced and became the norm. But we decided that we needed the support of a Tour Manager, as in Newcastle.

Thus from 2014 there has been a run of Cannon Travel holidays all following the pattern which had been successful. In 2014 October we visited Chester, in May 2015 Cardiff, in May 2016 Harrogate, in May 2017 Shrewsbury, in May 2018 King's Lynn and in May 2019 Lincoln. So far 2020 has been postponed from late April because of the Coronavirus Pandemic. As I write this we should have been at Canterbury.

What follows are some more highlights from these lovely holidays.

**2014 Chester. The Queen Hotel.** A Vintage Bus ride round the City proved a delightful way of getting an overview of the walled city. We turned up in Golden Boy to an unimpressive Car Park at the end of a narrow lane. There were rusty relics amongst the weeds. We reluctantly climbed from the coach. Our hearts lifted when we saw the welcoming notice on the door addressed to HELIC. In we went to be overwhelmed by enthusiastic ladies offering wonderful food and drink. What followed was a remarkable tour of a huge variety of displays and demonstrations, terminating in a room with a 3D hand produced map of the area in 1900. That was ANSONS.....shall we ever forget? Twenty three gentlemen went on a specialised visit to Airbus. The ladies visited Ness Botanic Gardens at leisure. Another highlight was the visit to Quarry Bank, a working mill dating back to the Industrial Revolution.



**Chester City Centre**

**2015 Cardiff. Hotel Mercury.** En route Tredegar House with an unexpected Craft Fair. I still wear the purple semi-transparent cardigan. We visited the Millennium Stadium. We thought a plague of seriously unwell seagulls had flown over us as we queued to enter. Oh, no.....the painters on the superstructure above were being liberal with their white paint! Dear Sharon was excellent recording evidence with her phone camera and sorting the insurance. The ultra brave ascended Newport Transporter Bridge and were awarded with certificates. The less intrepid gents and the ladies enjoyed a mug of tea in a truly Welsh Cafe with Film Stars' photographs for wallpaper. Anne Brooks knows the very place! We visited the Morgan Factory on the return journey.



**Cardiff Castle**

**2016 Harrogate. The Crown.** Undoubtedly the highlight was the choreographed fall of Mary Middleton and Wendy Mose, who simultaneously slipped on a grassy Bank whilst enjoying the delights at the Yorkshire Sculpture Park. Fortunately they both laughed! Our Tour Manager, Sharon earned her keep on this trip. She arranged dental appointments, hospital treatments and coped with our wilting in what was incredibly hot weather.



**Harrogate**

**2017 Shrewsbury. The Lion Hotel.** Our journey stops were Attingham Park and Cosford (RAF). We explored the museums of Ironbridge and Coalbrookdale where the Industrial Revolution began. A ride from Kidderminster along the Severn Valley Railway was preceded by an unexpected tour of the Carpet Museum, entered through a supermarket in Kidderminster! It proved to be exciting watching the vast looms in operation.



**Shrewsbury**

**2018 King's Lynn.** Our Harpenden pick-up group were shivering in a doorway by the George Pub. It got colder. We should have gone to Oxburgh Hall, but that was cancelled so we went to Blickling Hall and did our best. A tiny book in the small RAF Museum collared our attention. It was called "Instructions for American Servicemen in Britain 1942." Kit, Francis and I thumbed through it to see how the GIs should handle us in WW2. Sandringham was freezing, our tour of King's Lynn was delivered indoors by able guides. BUT the sun came out for a boat trip on the Broads and our trip to Forncett Industrial Steam Museum south of Norwich proved to be our BEST VISIT EVER! Hosted by a qualified anaesthetist whose "hobby" was collecting and renovating into working condition Steam Engines from all around he has built this superb museum and personally takes you on his journey. His talented family provide excellent food. The Tank Museum seemed dull in the afternoon. How we Seniors enjoyed the Carousels at Bressingham on the way home!



Bressingham

**2019 Lincoln.** The last holiday we have done. The Lincoln Hotel was literally opposite the Cathedral. The Ploughman's lunch at the Royal William IV in Lincoln followed by a Boat trip were highlights. Lincoln itself was our main focus.....a beautiful city. More time to do one's own thing was introduced on this trip and that proved popular. A highlight was the 1950s style lunch in the railway carriages of our train on the Lincolnshire Wolds Railway. We returned via Belton House.



Lunch on the Lincolnshire Wolds Railway



Mighty Lincoln Cathedral (view from Castle )

These holidays have become a regular feature of the HELC calendar. As we age we have, perhaps, reduced the pace somewhat, but there is always an excellent sense of friendship and enjoyment wherever we go. We have lost some Members over recent years through ill health and deaths, but there are still enough of us keen to go on our Golden Boy Coach starting at Hanbury, Welwyn Garden City or Harpenden on a Sunday Morning. Five days later we return, having got to know each other better, enjoyed the expected and the unexpected and waving goodbye to our essential Tour Manager and Driver. "Where are we going next Year?" is the cry.

As I write it looks like that there will not be a holiday in 2020. The proposed Canterbury trip may well be postponed until Spring 2021.

Giving consideration to Members who would prefer a less active holiday staying at a Warner's Hotel, but with the benefit of Golden Boy Travel, is a possible alternative. Our personal experience of Warner's is that they are in excellent locations, provide superb accommodation and food and you can join in as much or as little as you please. Evening entertainment is provided. If we went as a group by coach some could go by coach to visit further afield, but we would have the camaraderie of our known friends. Please let me know if this would appeal. Contact me at [greatreps@gmail.com](mailto:greatreps@gmail.com)

## Memories of the Start of WW2 and VE Day

As we celebrate the 75th Anniversary of VE Day, the more Senior seniors amongst us will have our own personal memories of that day. Jeanette Harris recalls her memories of the day WW2 began and the day it ended.

### 3rd SEPTEMBER 1939

I was six years old when the Second World War started. I was on holiday in Cromer, Norfolk, with my mother and my cousin Jose, who was fourteen.

The 3rd September was a Sunday, and I remember my uncle Karl, Jose's father driving all the way from Leicestershire to take us back home from Cromer. People were warned not to be on holiday near the beaches, especially on the East Coast, because England might be invaded by the Germans! No one knew what was going to happen, and so my family did not want us to be in any danger by staying on holiday in Cromer.

Shortly after the beginning of the war, enormous rolls of barbed wire were positioned on the beaches around England, particularly on the East Coast, to make it difficult for the Germans to land if they invaded England. These rolls of barbed wire remained on the beaches for the duration of the war.

There were no seaside holidays for English people until well after the war ended in May 1945. The beaches had to be checked for landmines and other ammunition before the beaches could be open again to the public.

During the war the village, Anstey, in Leicestershire where I lived, was not affected very much directly. The warning sirens used to be sounded regularly, and we could hear enemy aircraft overhead. However, we were not bombed apart from one bomb which was dropped on the outskirts of the village. This caused great excitement amongst the young people who all went to look at the crater the next day! Unfortunately, Leicester being an industrial city, was bombed quite badly and several factories were destroyed.

### 8th MAY 1945 – VE DAY

I was twelve years old when the Second World War in Europe ended.

I lived in a village, Anstey, situated four miles to the North West of Leicester. The centre of the village was called 'The Nook', and this consisted of an open space where four roads converged, and there were shops around the edge of the open space. On VE (Victory in Europe) night, all the village people gathered in 'The Nook' and there was music, and everyone was dancing - it was a very happy occasion. I was there with my mother and other family members. My dad wasn't there as he was still in the army in North Africa. My aunt's husband, uncle Bill, wasn't there either as he was still in the RAF and was stationed on the Isle of Barra, off the North West coast of Scotland.

Some days after VE Day there were street parties in the village. Union Jacks were flying outside the houses, and I remember there was lots of red, white and blue bunting across the streets. As there was still food rationing, everyone contributed food for the street parties. The food was very simple, sandwiches, jellies and homemade cakes.

Eventually the euphoria died down and village life gradually returned to a more normal existence. However, food was still rationed and continued for several more years.

In the late 1940's my husband David's family managed to have a day out on the east coast in Lincolnshire, which was the nearest seaside area to Leicestershire. When sitting on the beach they were very surprised to see a crashed Dornier bomber appear out of the sea as the tide went out, with its two engines some distance away in front of it.

The next year the family went to the same spot, but the bomber and all its bits of metal had been removed. They were careful not to paddle in the sea near to the crash site in case pieces of metal still remained!

## The A1 Locomotive Trust

Many members of HELIC no doubt can remember the golden age of steam in the 1940's and 50's. Some of you no doubt, like me, may even have collected train numbers with your little Ian Allan books to record locomotive sightings. Living on the eastern side of the country I was naturally drawn to the LNER which became the Eastern Region when the railways were nationalised in 1947. The great attraction was the main line out of Kings Cross which ran to the north east of England and on to Edinburgh. The express passenger trains were pulled mainly by the Gresley Pacifics, particularly the A3's like **Flying Scotsman** and A4's like the world steam record holder **Mallard**. For me, nothing compares visually with the sight of a streamlined A4 Pacific at the front of the 10 am from Edinburgh passing through Southgate Station at speed.



Tornado A1 Locomotive

Joining the Gresley Pacifics after the war on the East Coast main line were the newly built A1's. Sir Nigel Gresley who had been Chief Mechanical Engineer of the LNER died in 1941 and was succeeded by Edward Thompson and then three years later by Arthur Peppercorn. They realised that the now rather elderly A4's and A3's needed support for the heavy workload on the East Coast mainline and this was to be provided by the new A1 class. But the age of steam was already being threatened by diesel locomotives, the motorway system and the private car and of course the Beeching Report. These aspects coming together were the death knell for steam locomotives countrywide and in no time at all they found their way to the "knackers yard". A sad sight indeed to see these wonderful machines lined up as so much scrap metal!

All was not lost, however, the Beeching cuts allowed various groups to set themselves up to run these unwanted branch lines which sprang up all around the country and these had to be steam driven to attract customers to make them viable. Enthusiasts rallied round and set about running these ex branch lines, largely on a voluntary basis. This was a life-saver for many steam locomotives particularly the iconic ones such as the Gresley A4's of which 4 are still in working order including the world famous Mallard. However, in spite of examples of most of the main line locomotive classes being saved, there was one glaring omission and that was the A1 Class, designed by the last Chief Mechanical Engineer of the LNER, A. H. Peppercorn. Forty nine A1's were built but by the early 1960's all of them had been scrapped.

In 1990 a group of enthusiasts came together to build a new A1 locomotive. This group had experience of locomotive design, railway operation, finance and marketing. Feasibility studies showed that it could be done at a cost of about £3 million and British Rail still had the drawings in their archives. Before going ahead, two other major problems had to be resolved; the availability of suitable workshop premises and raising the money. Darlington Council offered the old Darlington Carriage works and it was hoped that a covenant scheme together with a bond issue would be successful in raising the money from the public. Thus the [A1 Locomotive Trust](#), a charity, was born with the intent to build and operate a new A1 locomotive.

With the full support of British industry and over 1500 covenanters, by 2007 the A1 locomotive, now named **Tornado** and numbered 60163, the 50<sup>th</sup> A1 to be built, was completed and after much testing and certification was allowed onto the main line in 2008.

From then on Tornado hauled excursions all over the country full of day trippers and railway enthusiasts alike. Tornado was able to pay its way and give much pleasure to young people who had never seen a mainline steam locomotive at speed as well as the older generation who could relive their youth.

2018 was an exciting year for the Trust as Tornado was tested to 100MPH on the East Coast main line and became the only steam locomotive to achieve that target in recent times. In the same year Tornado recorded its 10<sup>th</sup> birthday and I was privileged to attend a party at Darlington

Locomotive Works where I was able to talk to the Chairman about the Trust's plans for the future. The decision had already been made to build a second locomotive, a P2 and much work had already been carried out which was evident at the party. I suggested that the market for new steam locomotives was in danger of being saturated with the A1 available and the P2 to follow. "Not so", said the Chairman and went on to outline a string of locomotives that the trust hoped to build.

The Trust's second project, the P2 class of locomotive, was designed by Sir Nigel Gresley before WW2 to haul 600 ton trains over the line between Edinburgh and Aberdeen. The line had sharp curves and steep gradients and required a powerful engine with good adhesion to the track. Six P2's were built for this duty but after going in service it was obvious that various modifications were needed for the engines to be successful. Before these could be carried out Sir Nigel died and his successor, Edward Thompson decided to rebuild the P2's as Pacifics favouring the same wheel arrangement as the A3's and A4's. This meant that instead of a 2-8-2 wheel arrangement they would become 4-6-2's getting around the changes that the P2 arrangement required. Thus the P2's disappeared during the war years and re-emerged as A2's. To build a new P2, therefore, meant that the Trust had to build and modify a new locomotive which was, arguably, a bigger challenge than building the Tornado.

Construction is now going ahead at the Darlington Locomotive Works. The project is expected to cost about £5 million with completion in late 2022. Once again, British industry is fully supportive and already £3.5 million has been raised or promised mainly through a covenant scheme and the Trust hopes that, on completion, the project will be debt-free. Prince Charles has taken a great interest in the project and has graciously agreed that the new P2 locomotive is to be named, **Prince of Wales**. Its number will be 2007 as the original P2's were numbered 2001 to 2006.

On completion of the Prince of Wales, the Trust hopes to continue its new-build program with the K4 Class. This was a much lighter locomotive for use on lines which were unsuitable for large locomotives such as the A1 and P2. Preliminary work has already started on this new project.

(Acknowledgements to the A1 Locomotive Trust for permission to use their photos)



New P2 locomotive 2007, Prince of Wales  
under construction at Darlington

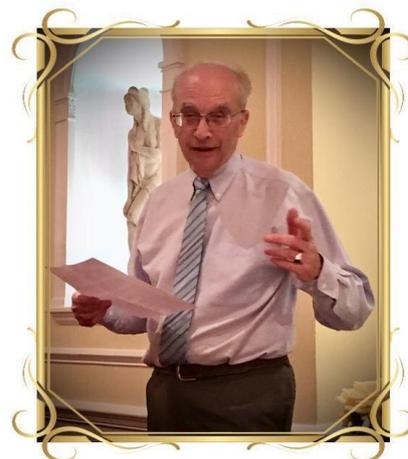


P2, 2001, "Cock o' the North" built in 1934

## Dr. Antony Ware, FRSC

Tony Ware, sadly died on 15 March following complications after a recent operation. Tony and his wife Pat joined HELIC in 2016.

He was a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry, and a highly regarded figure in the field of radiochemistry. He co-founded the [Division of Nuclear and Radiochemistry \(DNRC\)](#), a world-wide network of experts, now part of EuChemS., organising and chairing International Conferences and also acting its treasurer for many years, culminating with him receiving a life time achievement award for services to the European radio chemical industry



Born in 1939, Tony grew up in Bristol, one of three siblings. Tony's dad left home when he was very young and so he had to step up and become the patriarch of the family. The mark of the man was shown when Tony organised his dad's funeral having not seen him for more than 50 years.

He attended Cotham Grammar School, Bristol. Then upon leaving school he moved to London and worked for Customs and Excise prior to starting University, having won a place at Sir John Cass College. He studied first for a BSc in Chemistry and then a PhD in Radio Chemicals Methods.

During his time in London he met Pat, who had recently moved from Newcastle. They married in 1960 and their first son, Graham, was born two years later. After completing his PhD he took up a post as lecturer in radiochemistry at Loughborough College of Technology, which later became Loughborough University. During this chapter of their lives their second son, Colin, was born in 1965, followed by a third son, Alan, in 1968.

In 1975 Tony made a career change away from academia when he joined the Central Electricity Generating Board (CEGB) with responsibility for monitoring nuclear power stations in the UK. The family moved to Potters Bar, where Pat and Tony made many friendships in their local Methodist church. However, this was not to last as Tony's laboratory was relocated to Maidstone in Kent which meant another move. Once settled in Maidstone they again became active members of the local Methodist church, with Tony taking on the roles of treasurer and steward. He took early retirement from the CEGB at 55 but continued to work as a consultant in his field.

Tony and Pat moved back to Potters Bar five years ago to be nearer to their sons and grandchildren in the UK. One again they joined the congregation at the local Methodist Church, that they had said goodbye to 30 years before.

Tony's passion since schooldays was running. He ran for three clubs, even co-founding one in Loughborough, the Charwood Harriers. At the age 45, he ran the London Marathon in the very respectable time of just over three hours - an unbeaten record in the Ware family. Tony also loved singing and in later years he joined Pat singing in the Potters Bar Community choir.

He also enjoyed walking and took part in HELIC walks whenever he could. Vernon Clough recalled: **"Val and I have always found Tony to be friendly, interesting and exceptionally good company."** A former colleague in the DNRC writing on [Facebook](#) said: **"He was the most decent, caring and optimistic man I have ever had the privilege to know."**

A memorial service for Tony will be held once the restrictions allow such a gathering. Details will be circulated to HELIC members at a later date

*Allan Goodfellow*

(With acknowledgement due to Pat and Colin Ware)

## Exploring London Quiz

1. The Old Bailey stands on the site of which former prison?
2. Which London museum was originally called "The Museum of Ornamental Art"?
3. Which annual garden show is held in the grounds of the Royal Hospital, London?
4. On a London underground map what lines are represented by the following colours, (i) Red, (ii) Yellow, (iii) Green, (iv) Black and (v) Brown?
5. The Fairfield Halls are in which London borough?
6. What event does "The Monument" in London commemorate?
7. Near which London Station is the British Library?
8. Which London underground station was known as Westminster Bridge Road until 1917?
9. What was Marble Arch in London originally designed to be?
10. From which London main-line station would you catch a train to the following destinations (i) Cardiff, (ii) Newcastle, (iii) Norwich, (iv) Southampton and (v) Paris?
11. Which seaside town also has a Nelson's Column? Built 24 years prior to the one in London.
12. How many parishes are there in Greater London?
13. In which London square would you find a statue of Mahatma Gandhi?
14. Which World War 2 cruiser is moored on the Thames?
15. The composer Haydn wrote "The London Symphonies" but who composed "The London Symphony"?
16. Which London entertainment centre's motto of "We Never Closed" was often changed to "We Never Clothed"?
17. In Dickens's "A Tale of Two Cities", London was one - what was the other?
18. Who famously lives or lived at the following London addresses (i) Buckingham Palace, (ii) Lambeth Palace, (iii) 11 Downing Street, (iv) 221B Baker Street and (v) 10 Rillington Place?
19. Which London bridge is a combined bascule and suspension bridge?

With thanks and acknowledgement to Carol Gissing, Dacorum U3A.

## Lockdown lingo - are you fully conversant with the new terminology?

Expressions that may (or may not) find their way into the next edition of the Oxford English Dictionary .....

### CoronaCoaster

The ups and downs of your mood during the pandemic. You're loving lockdown one minute but suddenly weepy with anxiety the next. It truly is "an emotional coronacoaster".

### Quarantinis

Experimental cocktails mixed from whatever random ingredients you have left in the house. The boozy equivalent of a store cupboard supper. Southern Comfort and Ribena quarantini with a glacé cherry garnish, anyone? These are sipped at "locktail hour", ie. wine o'clock during lockdown, which seems to be creeping earlier with each passing week.

### Blue Skype Thinking

A work brainstorming session which takes place over a video conferencing app. Such meetings might also be termed a "Zoomposium". Naturally, they are to be avoided if at all possible.

### Le Creuset Wrist

It's the new "Avocado Hand" - an aching arm after taking one's best [cooking pot](#) outside to bang during the weekly 'Clap for Carers.' (You know it's too heavy, but you're keen to impress the neighbours with your high-quality kitchen-ware.)

### Coronials

As opposed to "millennials", this refers to the future generation of babies conceived or born during coronavirus lock-down. They might also become known as "Generation C" or, more spookily, "Children of the Quarantines"?

### Furlough Merlot

Wine consumed in an attempt to relieve the frustration of not working. [Might also be](#) known as "Bored-Eaux" or "Cabernet Tedium".

### Coronadose

An overdose of bad [virus-related](#) news, from listening to over-much media during a time of crisis. [Could also](#) result in a "panic-demic"?

### The Elephant in the Zoom

The [uncomfortable feeling](#) during a videoconferencing call that nobody feels able to mention! For example, when one participant has dramatically put on weight, suddenly sprouted terrible facial hair or has a worryingly messy house visible in the background.

### Quentin Quarantino

An attention-seeker using their time in lockdown to make amateur films which they're convinced are funnier and cleverer than they actually are.

### Covid-iot or Wuhan-ker

One who ignores public health advice or behaves with reckless disregard for the safety of others can be said to display "covidioy" or be "covidiotic". Also perhaps called a "lock-down-clown"?

### Gout-break

The sudden fear that you've consumed so much wine, cheese, home-made cake and Easter chocolate in lockdown that you are suffering extreme pain and your ankles are swelling up like a medieval king's.

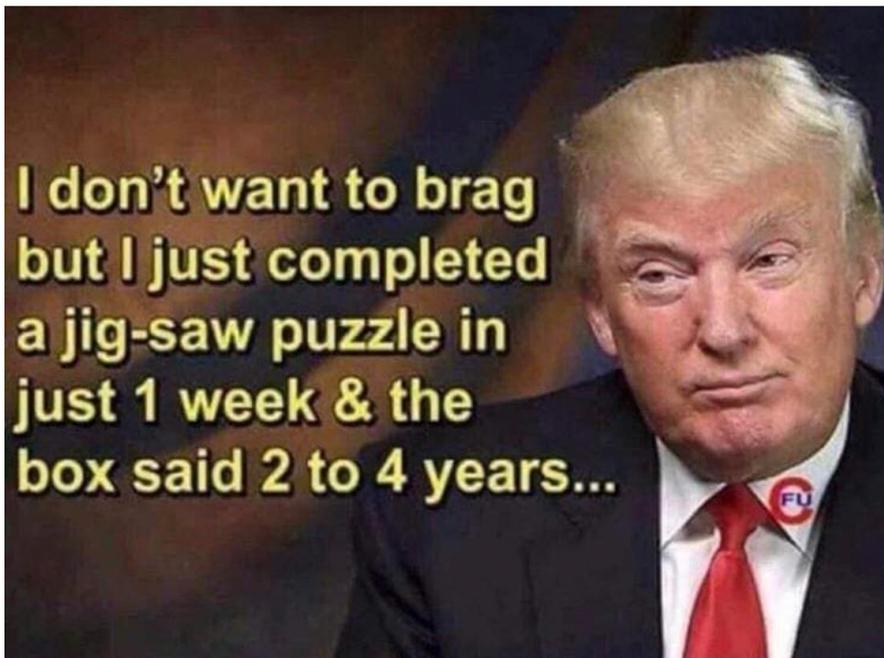
I could go on, but I'll spare you the rest!

## Breaking News

### **This appraisal of Trump's recent healthcare package has apparently been circulating in the USA:**

The American Medical Association has weighed in on Trump's health care package:

The Allergists were in favor of scratching it, but the Dermatologists advised not to make any rash moves. The Gastroenterologists had sort of a gut feeling about it, but the Neurologists thought the Administration had a lot of nerve. Meanwhile, Obstetricians felt certain everyone was labouring under a misconception, while the Ophthalmologists considered the idea short-sighted. Pathologists yelled, "Over my dead body!" while the Pediatricians said, "Oh, grow up!" The Psychiatrists thought the whole idea was madness, while the Radiologists could see right through it. Surgeons decided to wash their hands of the whole thing and the Internists claimed it would indeed be a bitter pill to swallow. The Plastic Surgeons opined that this proposal would "put a whole new face on the matter". The Podiatrists thought it was a step forward, but the Urologists were p\*ss\*d off at the whole idea. Anesthesiologists thought the whole idea was a gas, and those lofty Cardiologists didn't have the heart to say "No". In the end, the Proctologists won out, leaving the entire decision up to the \*ss-h\*!s in Washington.



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