

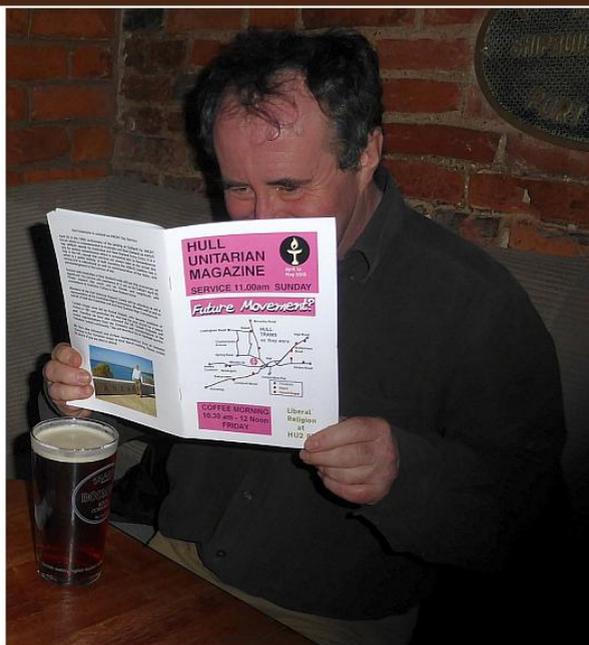
HULL UNITARIAN MAGAZINE



June to
August 2015

SERVICE 11.00am SUNDAY

Roots (& Wings)



COFFEE MORNING
10.30 am - 12 Noon
FRIDAY

Liberal Religion
at
HU2 8TA

Hull Unitarian Magazine

Editor: Dr Ralph Catts; Writer and Compiler: Dr Adrian Worsfold

Instructions to Authors:

Members and friends of Hull Unitarians are invited to submit articles for consideration for publication by the Editor. Normally short items should not exceed 325 words and be suitable to fit on one page, and longer articles are not to exceed 650 words. There is a general limit of 2 pages per article and hence authors must allow on the one or two pages space for any photos or diagrams. Any exceptions to these limits are to be discussed in advance with the Editor, Ralph Catts. Authors are required to confirm ownership of copyright including any photos or diagrams or to declare open source materials, and to indemnify Hull Unitarians against any breach of copyright be it intentional or inadvertent. Copyright is vested in the authors of all material in this magazine. When authors cite sources use APA style (see <http://www.usq.edu.au/library/referencing/apa-referencing-guide>). The Editor and Compiler are happy to advise on how to cite references correctly.

Articles are to be submitted to the compiler in 10 point font and rich text format (.RTF), unless another format has been agreed. Photos or drawings are to be sent in large .JPG or .PNG or .BMP formats. For forthcoming issues articles are to be received by August 10 and October 10 respectively. The Editor reserves the right to either defer or to refuse to publish any materials. Authors may provide a brief biographical statement (maximum 50 words) as per the examples below.

Introducing Authors:

Dr Ralph Catts is the Pastor of Hull Unitarian Church.

Dr Adrian Worsfold is a friend of Hull Unitarians and Compiler of this newsletter. Articles and artwork unless otherwise stated are his, including the puzzles and jokes.

The second part of 'Our Unitarian Heritage' looking at Free Catholics and Unitarians (including Hull) will appear in the next issue.

Services

All Services at 11:00 am

July 05	Barry Cundill	Priorities and Perspectives in Our Lives
July 12	Ralph Catts	350 Years of Dissent
July 19	Ralph Catts	On Being Spiritual – Not Religious
July 26	Ralph Catts	Belonging to a Spiritual Community

August 2	Ralph Catts	Mavis Lake - Recognition of Service to Hull Unitarians with barbecue starting at 2:00 pm (see back cover)
August 9	Ralph Catts	Joseph Priestley
August 16	Ralph Catts	19th Century Christian Unitarians
August 23	Bernard McHugh	Breath of Life
August 30	Ralph Catts	James Luther Adams - a 20th Century Unitarian Theologian

At last some Unitarian jokes:

Did you hear about the Unitarian with a blocked up nose who had a Socinus problem?

Did you hear about the Welsh Unitarian prisoner who went to the Black Spot to finish his sentence?



United by our ethos and values, Hull Unitarians aim to create a faith community of caring and committed people, welcoming of all who are respectful of the diversity of views held by members of our congregation. We seek to celebrate life in the experience of free and inquiring religion.

Who Does What?

Pastor: Dr. Ralph Catts

Tel: 07444540925

Board of Church Trustees:

Barry Cundill, Keith Brown
Mavis Lake, Michael Tracey,
John Williams

**Board of Chamberlain
Trust trustees:**

Mavis Lake, Michael Tracey,
Barry Cundill, John Williams

Website; Secretary: Keith Brown

Treasurer; Reaching Out: Mavis Lake

Music; Magazine Writer and Compiler:

Adrian Worsfold adrian@pluralist.co.uk

Kate Taylor of Wakefield



The funeral for Kate Taylor took place on 5 June at Wakefield Unitarian Church. It was a remarkable celebration of a remarkable person. It was led by Rev. Bill Darlison and there were more than 200 in attendance. Among those who spoke were local civic leaders, Derek McCauley, Chief Officer of the GA, and clerics, including the Anglican's

Suffragan Bishop of Wakefield who said of Kate that she was possibly the only self-confessed atheist to have been afforded the title of honorary canon by the Church of England. *Ralph Catts*

On 7th June Bernard McHugh led a service celebrating two hundred years of the Yorkshire Unitarian Union. The YUU began two years after Unitarianism was made legal in 1813. The service began with a silence in memory of Kate and used the YUU published *Roots and Wings* of writings from individuals, including Kate Taylor. Bernard gave two reflections on then and now.

Reflection on the Loss of Kate Taylor by *Adrian Worsfold*

The death of Kate Taylor of Wakefield Unitarians raises a similar issue that presented itself at the death of Sir Patrick Moore, the astronomer, in that all that knowledge, which was coherently expressible to the end, was suddenly silent. This is the theology of culture and biology intertwined: the Word, or words, are embodied. Kate Taylor embodied Unitarianism. Unitarianism is embodied in those who express it.

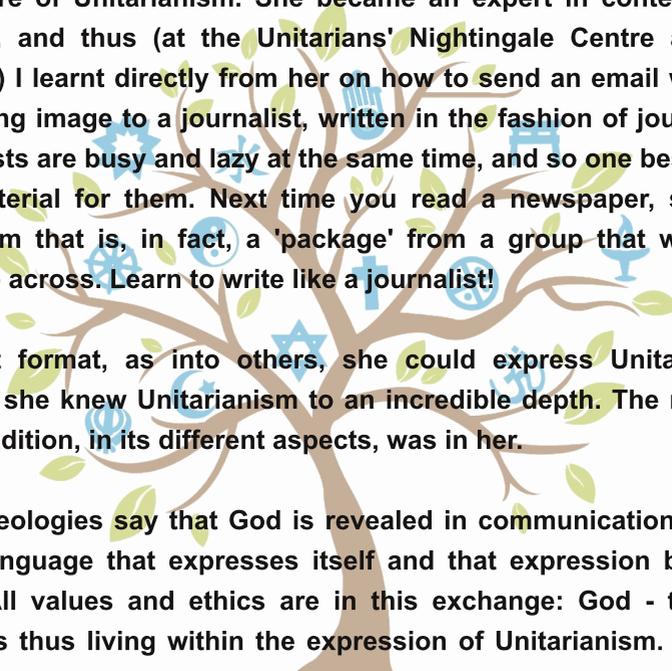
We, of all animals, are unique. We are not unique in mass organising, because the simplest animals mass organise, as shown by lots of computer units given simple instructions that then pattern organisation. We are not unique in communicating symbolically, or having tribal social structure, because many animals do this and some do it knowingly.

What makes us unique is the library. We have communication so precise that we can record it, and we do this about abstract thought as well as concrete happenings. We know, biologically, that we learn language and grammar faster and deeper than we are taught its detail.

But imagine if all we had were libraries (in other words, museums). Imagine we are gone and aliens landed. How much would they understand? Do even we understand our past? Looking at scripts rediscovered, do we really know the ancient Jewish and Gentile mindsets from our reading of Qumran, Early Christian and Nag Hammadi Gospels, say? What leap of imagination is needed to get back in time, when the past is another country?

We have enough difficulty understanding one another, but at least we can converse. The living are constantly negotiating presumptions and particulars of meaning. Culture and biology are in full flow.

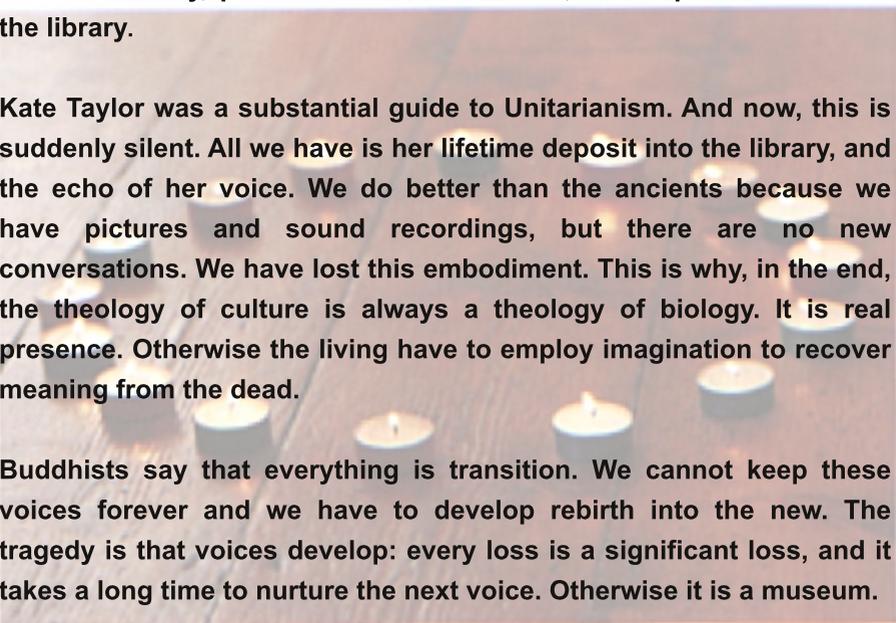
Kate Taylor was herself an historian, but she expressed the present



and future of Unitarianism. She became an expert in contemporary publicity, and thus (at the Unitarians' Nightingale Centre at Great Hucklow) I learnt directly from her on how to send an email with one supporting image to a journalist, written in the fashion of journalism. Journalists are busy and lazy at the same time, and so one best writes their material for them. Next time you read a newspaper, spot the news item that is, in fact, a 'package' from a group that wants its message across. Learn to write like a journalist!

Into that format, as into others, she could express Unitarianism, because she knew Unitarianism to an incredible depth. The richness of the tradition, in its different aspects, was in her.

Some theologies say that God is revealed in communication. God is in the language that expresses itself and that expression becomes reality. All values and ethics are in this exchange: God - the Holy Spirit - is thus living within the expression of Unitarianism. It draws from the library, processes in conversation, and deposits anew into the library.



Kate Taylor was a substantial guide to Unitarianism. And now, this is suddenly silent. All we have is her lifetime deposit into the library, and the echo of her voice. We do better than the ancients because we have pictures and sound recordings, but there are no new conversations. We have lost this embodiment. This is why, in the end, the theology of culture is always a theology of biology. It is real presence. Otherwise the living have to employ imagination to recover meaning from the dead.

Buddhists say that everything is transition. We cannot keep these voices forever and we have to develop rebirth into the new. The tragedy is that voices develop: every loss is a significant loss, and it takes a long time to nurture the next voice. Otherwise it is a museum.

Pastor's letter from Ralph Catts June to August 2015



I have been with you now for four months and through dialogue with members, friends and trustees I have framed my goals in ministry that are in keeping with the Vision Statement adopted by the church as a basis for my call.

My aim is to enable all members and friends of the church to be part of our sacred spiritual community, contributing to activities if they are so moved, and by sharing the joy and inspiration of our spiritual community. However, we also have to accept from time to time that people who have been associated with the church may choose to take their leave. One such person is Bryan Burgess who has been a member of this church on and off, for nearly thirty years. Over the years he has played a prominent but controversial role in church affairs. In view of his long association with the church, I advise that Mr Burgess has decided that he no longer wishes to renew his membership of the Church.

Looking ahead, I intend my ministry to be one of love and insight, innovation and creativity. I also intend to find ways to ensure that the renewal of our spiritual community will be sustainable and lead to growth in our influence in our city. I hope also to provide spiritual nurture and growth for those who take part in all the activities supported by your church.

Hull Unitarians will be a spiritual light in the centre of the city. By our words and by our deeds we will address the needs of those who are disadvantaged and unfairly treated in our exploitative materialistic society. We will do so by humble engagement with the human condition and outreach to the margins of society. We will also engage in our society by taking up the issues that warrant debate and analysis informed by reason and spiritual love. We are concerned for the plight of refugees, for the freedom of expression, and for the values of democracy and individual liberty, while having regard also for the common good.

Hull Unitarians will offer to all members and friends opportunities for fun and shared joys through social events. Please note the forthcoming barbecue advertised on the last page of this newsletter.

I will also be with you when there are times of sadness, fear, or other needs. I can however only minister to your needs and share your joys if you continue to let me know of events in your life where I may be of support. I hope that you feel free to speak to me or to ring me up to discuss things in confidence.

I welcome ideas to enhance the experience of being a member of our church. I will never put the onus on you alone to address any needs because your contributions are voluntary and are respected as such, but not expected. You are free to come to any events simply to enjoy and share. There are many members and friends who do take initiatives on behalf of us all including support for our Sunday worship and for our charity Friday morning coffee sessions. These and many other contributions are much appreciated, but not taken for granted. Please let me know how I and others can better support you in those efforts you make on our behalf.

Ralph Catts June 2015

It's a Miracle!



Fridays 10:30 - 12:00

Coffee Morning

ask for cheese

on toast

Friday Morning Charity Stalls

For a long time Hull Unitarians have raised money for charities including through charity stalls during the Friday Coffee Mornings. Members and friends attend and support our charities, offering companionship, an opportunity to pick up a bargain, a good cause.

Charities who join us for fund raising include the Hull Veterans' Support Centre, Dove House Hospice, MacMillan Nurses, Cancer Research UK, and St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group in the West Bank, Gaza and East Jerusalem. Each is invited to bring along their own supporters.

Some of the members and friends of our church take a special interest in supporting each of these charities. Here is an invitation and an opportunity for you to play a role by proposing a charity to support and, if it is agreed by the trustees, becoming our liaison person once or up to four times a year. If you would like to be involved, please talk with Mavis Lake in the first instance.

One of our regular charities at coffee mornings has been St John of Jerusalem Eye Hospital Group. It is the only provider of eye care in East Jerusalem, Gaza and the West Bank. Recent fund raising, including at Park Street, has been used to provide a mobile outreach clinic in the West Bank. Their Spring 2015 newsletter reports that this new clinic: *"is intrinsically important in the occupied territories as it enables us to reach remote Palestinians who would not have access to eye care."*

For photos of their outreach work please see:

<http://www.stjohnehospital.org/photolibrary/photo-library/mobile-outreach#>

Connecting with Our Community



Terry Ireland and David Crook delivered the address

On Saturday April 25 2015 over forty people joined us to commemorate the centenary of ANZAC Day. We welcomed the then Deputy Lord Mayor, Councillor Anita Harrison, David Crook, Senior Trade and Investment Commissioner, from the Australian High Commission, in London, and members of the Hull Veterans Support Centre. Members of the public, including a New Zealand family and others with family within Australasia, also joined our service. Terry Ireland from the Hull Veterans provided a poem especially for the day as part of the traditional address. ITV reported the event that evening in *Calendar*, the news programme.

Attendees greatly appreciated the experience. Councillor Harrison said it was especially moving because she has family members in Australia and it gave her an understanding of the Australian Anzac tradition. Several Hull Veterans posted messages on their web site. A few show how the service was received:

I, among others, was very emotional.
Met some great people.

A wonderful experience and a lovely service. The lads and lass looked so smart.



Wreaths were laid at the Hull Paragon Cenotaph after the service.

Shades

A Poem
For
ANZAC
Day

Terry
Ireland

One hundred years on and
Old enemies are now friends
So often the way of the world
After conflicts ends.
And that War To End All Wars
Just laid the foundations
For so many more.

From Suvla Bay to Basra,
To our modern days,
The world remains ruled by
Ever more aggressive ways.
Do the shades of the fallen
From a Valhalla somewhere
Look at the turning world
And sigh with despair.

Was their sacrifice wasted:
Were any lessons learned;
Did the people benefit
From any victory earned.
Do they draw the curtains
Shut out the view
Very little changes
Very little is new.

One hundred years further on
A very different where and when
May greet those restless shades
With curtains drawn back again:
A new world maybe emerged
With conflicts all long done,
That War To End All wars

I've been a bit down of late but am now out of the woods. My recurring skin complaint demanded steroid treatment with all the unfortunate side effects. Despite looking like the moths have been at me I am growing the hair back. Worst moment was at the park. I'm tied up at the railings while HWMO entertains young Oscar: as he returns, a mother stops her own young child from patting me with the words, 'Oh! Don't touch that dog, it's got mange!'

What a great walkies! The summer smells are at their best and the rabbits are there for the chasing. The hay has been mown and baled so I get the ultimate back-scratch treatment on the stubble (don't knock it if you've never tried it!). Others like the colour (whatever that is!) and go quite lyrical at the sight of 'swallows swooping low over patches of radiant buttercups. The very summery scent of the first flush of elderflower curds is so heady and the first butterflies are now about.'

Butterfly....A flower that flies and all but singsRobert Frost.

In the Cundill garden we have spinach (you would think it was truffles the way he goes on about it and the new potatoes, saying he could eat a plateful in butter all on their own)

There is a barbeque in the offing at church yours truly is offering his services in advance to help clear up (waste not, want not!).

Final Doggy Words.... Teaching an old dog new tricks: *If a hair of the dog is what is required, don't bitch about it but paws for thought a while or it could turn around and bite you on the backside!*



The Role of the Yorkshire Unitarian Union (YUU)

By Ralph Catts

Bernard McHugh led us in worship on June 7 and invited us to reflect upon the 200 years since the formation of the YUU on June 8 1815, just two years after the Unitarian Relief Act was passed by Westminster. This was before we had the railway and at that time many people who lived in Hull would not have travelled further than they could walk - and yet Unitarians from Hull, Lydgate near Huddersfield, from York, Whitby, Sheffield, Leeds and Scarborough gathered to form a Union to support one another.

As a spiritual community we are dispersed and some congregations are small. There is a tendency among some to hunker down and say: "It is too far" or, "We have enough on our plate without travelling from one end of Yorkshire to the other." Furthermore we are so diverse in our approaches to Unitarianism and hence we will not all agree on either theological or social issues.

So, you may well ask, why bother with the YUU? My answer is that the YUU is what we make it, and for that to happen we *need to participate*. If any member or friend is willing to be a delegate to the YUU from Hull, please speak with me. Give it a go and then walk away if you decide it is not to your liking.

For the 200th anniversary, the YUU produced the book, *Roots and Wings*. It is a wonderful collection of thoughts and reflections from Unitarians across Yorkshire. It includes a creative piece from our Secretary Keith Brown. The church has ten copies and I wonder if others would like to join me in an evening sharing our favourite pieces.

Pentecost

Adrian Worsfold

The Christian Calendar moves from the resurrection, discussed in the previous issue, through to Pentecost, which is the marking of the birth of the Church. It features in Acts 2:1-31. Pentecost comes ten days after Ascension Sunday, when all resurrection appearances of Jesus had to cease. By tradition Pentecost begins specifically in the Upper Room where Jesus celebrated his last supper, thus relating to the central ritual of Holy Communion, and spreads out geographically.

The origin of Pentecost is Jewish. It was the name given by Greek-speaking Jews to the festival which occurred fifty days after the offering of the barley sheaf during the Passover feast. So there is an obvious Christian parallel, given the 'offering' of Christ regarding the Easter Passion.

Indeed, the Eastern Church regards the fifty days between Easter and Pentecost as Pentecost itself.

The Jewish festival in the Hebrew Bible (or Old Testament) is the "Day of the First-Fruits", of wheat and from labouring, in dance and praising God, which again translates to the birth of the Church people as the first fruits. Later it became the "closing season of the Passover", the end of the fruit harvest, to distinguish it from other Passover festivals. The Jewish Shavuot occurs 50 days after Passover.

The Jewish festival further invokes the celebration of the giving of the Law through Moses at Sinai: so, again, there is a parallel made with the giving of the Christian Gospel into the community.

With the Spirit descending, Pentecost then has the notion of everyone understanding everyone else, despite speaking many languages of many nations. So the Spirit puts back together at the birth of the one Church what Babel had confused into many languages. People understand one another again. There was also people speaking in tongues, using the writings relating to Joel: they sounded drunk to outsiders (non-believers), although the opinion of the Apostle Paul about the practice was negative.

It's simpler than this, historically: Greek was the common language of the Roman Empire and Jews coming together with different languages would speak Greek, as did Gentiles. Greek had the function that English has today as a world language. So the importance of words and the ending of confusion is in that Christ is called The Word.

The Resurrection is a key event regarding Christ, but it is limited, and all is quieter still after the Ascension; then everything bursts out at Pentecost. It's the spiritual fire, the dove of peace and a celebration with green branches (in parts of Europe). Green is the East's liturgical colour: it is white in the West for purity: indeed, the English have called 49 days after Easter Sunday Whitsun.

What can Unitarians make of Pentecost? In the end, it is whether Unitarians consider their institution is part of the Universal Church. There's no settled authority statement for this: some individuals say it is and some say it isn't. Arguably not, because there is no general confession to say 'Jesus is Lord' among Unitarians that declares the Body of Christ. The Holy Spirit as a central concept does not imply the Trinity: there is no doctrine of the Trinity in the Bible and at best an economic trinity relating to baptism; there are many arian and unitarian implications of biblical statements. Unitarians have long referred to the Holy Spirit and many continue to do so: it is that of God which acts, receives and motivates: it is God's verb.

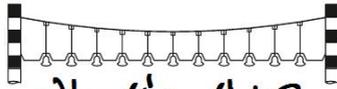
Unitarians will apply the historical-theological method to Pentecost before asking if it is of use. First of all, there was no single day of the birth of the Church. It emerged from messianic Jews thinking Jesus would return rapidly, and having to organise their own synagogues, and through Paul's brilliance at turning this Jesus faith into a salvation religion for Gentiles who wanted a Jewish-like monotheistic faith. They created Churches of a monotheistic faith with a Christ and an active Spirit. The festival gives continuity and legitimacy from Judaism and crosses the cultural divide, just as Paul did. It is a theology of language: that the Spirit gives life and expression: it joins biology and culture. There is Wisdom, the Word, the words on the page and the words we being alive express: words that make things real.

So a Unitarian use is that of a rapidly emergent spirituality: gathering, receiving and giving, of ethical talk and behaviour towards unity, and of multiculturalism where we understand one another in generosity. It is both a reflective and motivating humanism. These should be expressed within Unitarian congregations, and we are motivated to be empathetic about the world around us: that each of us is the keeper of the other.

Answers



Answers

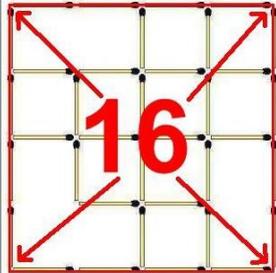
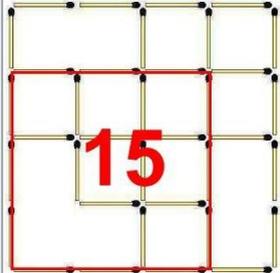
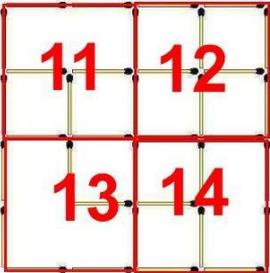
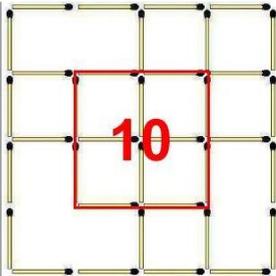
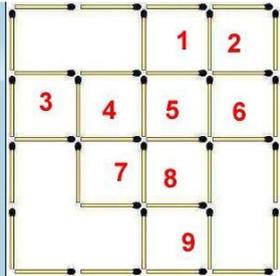
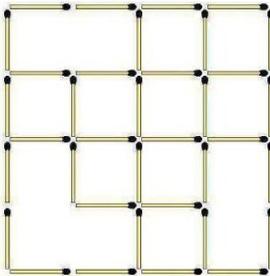


What's this?

It's a sign ahead of bells suspended above the road

that will ring if your vehicle is higher than the electric power lines running above the railway at the level crossing.

How Many Squares?



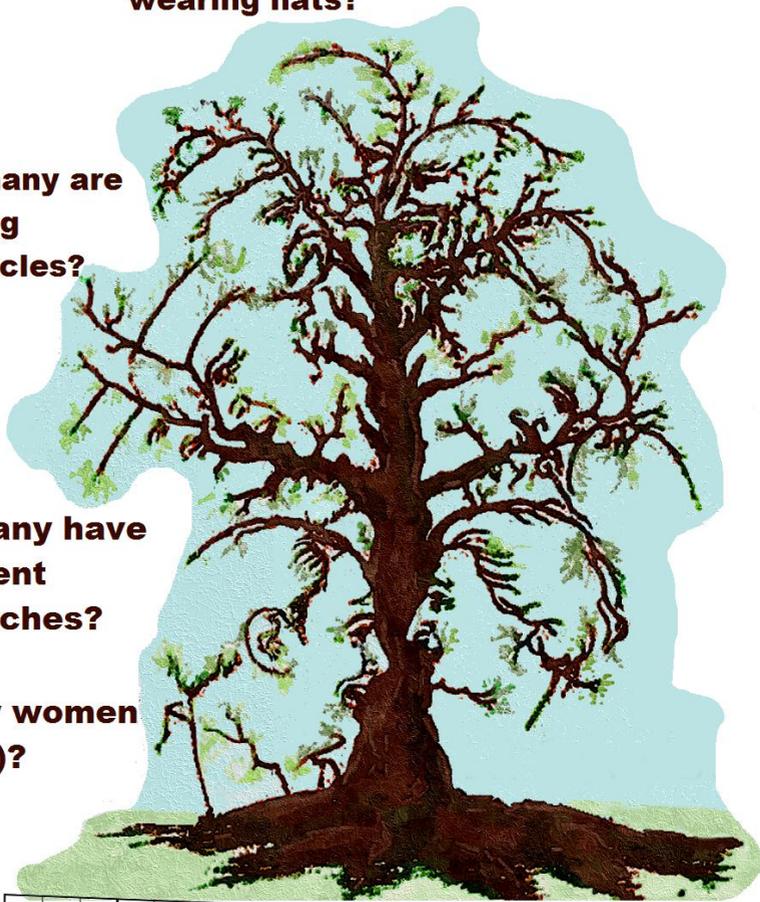
Do People Grow on Trees?

How many are wearing hats?

How many are wearing spectacles?

How many have prominent moustaches?

How many women (right side)?



Answer
April-May

3	2	7	6	8	1	4	9	5
8	5	6	2	9	4	3	7	1
9	4	1	5	7	3	8	6	2
6	1	5	3	2	8	9	4	7
2	3	8	9	4	7	1	5	6
7	9	4	1	6	5	2	3	8
5	8	2	7	3	9	6	1	4
4	7	9	8	1	6	5	2	3
1	6	3	4	5	2	7	8	9

3		7		6	9		2	5
				6				9
			3	1				
					3			
6	4		7					2
7	3		5			4		8
			8			6	9	3
			9	7		1	5	
			1		6			7



*Celebrating long-standing member Pat Clappison
(Picture: Adrian Worsfold)*

**Come and enjoy a Summer Time Barbecue
On August 2nd 2015, from 2:00 pm**

All members and friends of Hull Unitarians are invited to come to join us in an afternoon of fun where we will celebrate and give thanks for the long service of Mavis Lake. This is also the YUU Summer Event. Transport will be provided for members who are otherwise unable to get to church – please call the church (01482 224662) and leave a message if you would like a lift. Family members and friends are most welcome.