

The Philip Larkin Society

December 2023 Pub Quiz – Haworth Arms

Round 1 – some questions on Hull (with or without Larkin)

1. Which King, on St. George's Day in 1642. was refused entry to Hull?
2. Hull's very own Amy Johnson was the first woman to fly solo from England to Australia, but in what year?
3. This is an anagram of something invented in Hull. What is it? *Aldric squalidly tipsy.*
4. In what year did Hull Fair celebrate its 700th anniversary – 1946, 1993 or 2005?
5. Where would you find an annotated display of Larkin's glasses?
6. How many specially commissioned trail markers are on the 2011 Larkin Trail?
7. Where would you see this line inscribed in Hull: '*A hothouse flashed uniquely*'?
8. How many Larkin roundels are there on the floor at Paragon Station?
9. Where would you see these lines inscribed in Hull: '*If I were called in/ To construct a religion*'?
10. Where would you see this line inscribed in Hull: '*All sense of being in a hurry gone*'?

Round 2 – Sport in Literature

1. Which feisty Jane Austen in Northanger Abbey heroine preferred in her youth '*cricket, baseball and riding to books*'?
2. In what novel does Black Boy win a race, during which a knife attack occurs on the course?
3. With whom did the poet John Betjeman '*play strenuous singles after tea*'?
4. Leo Colston catches out Ted Burgess in a village cricket match in which book by LP Hartley?
5. Who does the football pools in a Larkin poem?
6. '*All the leading horses fell, leaving the field to a complete outsider: it just shows how it never does to give up.*' Philip Larkin to his mother, 9th April 1967. What famous horse race was Larkin writing about?
7. In which Larkin's poem do we find a crowd of men compared to the attendees at The Oval cricket ground?
8. Who wrote the book '*On Beauty*' which refers to '*the cricket-club tie*' worn by Monty Kipps?

9. In which novel by F. Scott Fitzgerald is there reference to golfer Jordan Baker, inspired by real-life golfer Edith Cummings?

10. Wrestler T.S.Garp appears in *'The World According to Garp'*. Who wrote this novel?

John Irving.

Round 3 - Questions on music in Larkin and music in Hull.

1. In which poem does Larkin make reference to the Beatles' first LP?

2. Larkin named a track called Down In the Dumps as his number one choice of record on Desert Island Discs. Which female jazz singer recorded this song?

3. Who was the Hull born guitarist who played with David Bowie and the Spiders from Mars?

4. Roland Gift moved to Hull aged 11. In which band was he the lead singer?

5. Complete the title of this Housemartin's album- 'London Nil, Hull.....'

6. Everything But the Girl met as students at Hull University, but from which Hull location did they get their name?

7. Which artist did Larkin describe in 1967 as having a *'passionately agile voice that deals with all kinds of material and her no-holds-barred 'My Man's Gone Now' has got her into my collection single-handed'*?

8. Larkin died 2nd December 1985. What was at Number 1 in the UK charts at the time? Was it:

a) 'There Must Be an Angel' - Eurythmics

b) 'I'm your Man' - Wham

c) 'Like a Prayer' - Madonna

9. Which Coventry-based band, with their nod to Shakespeare's A Midsummer Night's Dream, provides the music for The Philip Larkin Society's podcast, *'Tiny in all that Air'*?

10. Of which jazz musician did Larkin demand 'Oh play that thing!'

Round 4 – Larkin generally

1. Which poet and friend of Philip Larkin has a blue plaque on the wall of a Swansea betting office?

2. What is the literary connection between the novelist Malcolm Bradbury and Monica Jones?

3. Which world famous Irish poet described Philip Larkin as, *'A nine to five man who has seen poetry'*.

4. There are 64 lines in Larkin's poem MCMXIV. How many sentences do they comprise?

The following are Larkin's descriptions of his poems: which ones?

5. *'First verse all right, the rest crap, especially the last line.'* Clue: you find these in parks.
6. *'I don't, myself, like it very much: it belongs to that period after publication when one tries to write ideas of poems instead of real poems. In fact, I think it is embarrassingly bad!'* Clue: this poem has a religious setting.
7. *'I expect it still "lacks impact". Its trouble is that it's "music". i.e. pointless crap. About line 6 I hear a kind of wonderful Elgar river-music take over, for which the words are just an excuse.'* Clue: you need a lawnmower to make this.
8. *'Finished the "commissioned" poem last night, but it isn't any good. I'll never be laureate.'* Clue: this is a poem about Europe.
9. *'Last night after finishing – sorry, not finishing, writing – this to you I finished a dull poem [...] about ye Eastern Thridding, which I'm now trying to flog to Thwaite'.* Clue- In this poem you'll find a reference to toasters.
10. After John Betjeman died in 1984, it was rumoured that Larkin would take up the post of Poet Laureate. Which poet was appointed instead?

Round 5 – Stevie Smith , Oxford Book of 20th Century Verse & famous Phils.

1. The poet Stevie Smith was born in Hull in which year? You can have two years either way.
2. Which renowned American poet wrote the following fan letter to Stevie Smith in 1962? *'Also, I am hoping, by a work of magic, to get myself and the babies to a flat in London by the New Year and would be very grateful in advance to hear if you might be able to come to tea or coffee when I manage my move – to cheer me on a bit. I've wanted to meet you for a long time'.*
3. What was the name of Stevie Smith's fifth, and possibly best-known collection of Poetry, which was published in 1957?
4. Which famous British actress played the poet Stevie Smith in the 1967 film of her life, called simply 'Stevie'?
5. When Larkin edited the Oxford Book of 20th Century English Verse in 1970 he was given a Visiting Fellowship of which well-known Oxford College?
6. WH Auden's famous poem 'Night Mail' was included in the Oxford Book of 20th Century Verse. Which national organisation used this poem in a film about their business?
7. Grayson's Perry wife is called Philippa Perry. What is her profession?
8. Philip Michael Thomas is an American actor famous for which 1980s long running police drama?
9. Kinglsey Amis named his first child after Philip Larkin. What was the name of Amis's other two children?

10. Complete the title of this novel by Philip K Dick. Do Androids Dream of

Round 6 (the last round) – PLS HVPs past and present

1. Poet Imtiaz Dharker was born in Lahore, but in which British city did she grow up?
2. Sculptor Martin Jennings has recently designed the image of King Charles for our new coins and notes. One of his sculptures is outside the BBC in London- but which famous writer does it depict?
3. Dale Salwak has written many books about Larkin and other modern writers. But what was the non-academic connection between Salwak and former PLS President Eddie Dawes?
4. Rosemary Parry is a member of Philip Larkin's family. How is she related to Larkin?
5. For which American political satire did David Quantick provide scripts?
6. Stewart Lee is married to Bridget Christie. Which rural sitcom did she write and star in earlier this year?
7. For how many years was Andrew Motion poet laureate?
8. What is the name of Grayson Perry's female alter ego?
9. Alan Johnson was Home Secretary under which Labour Prime Minister?
10. Rosie Millard is the Chair of Children in Need. Who presented the very first Children in Need in 1980?

