



In October 2020 Brenda Jones had an article in the Southport newsletter, asking if anyone was interested in learning to play Bridge.

Several of us contacted Brenda, saying we were eager to learn the card game.

Thanks to Zoom we were able to begin our weekly Bridge lessons despite the lockdown. Brenda went to lots of trouble, creating various hands, taking photos of them then spending lots of time to explain the rules etc. to us.

Learning through Zoom was not the easiest way of being taught, but it was an excellent work around. After several weeks, and numerous times of Brenda, patiently, going over the same information from the questions we continued to raise, Brenda declared us ready to play.

We did this by splitting into groups and logging on to Bridge Base On Line (BBOL). All of us were feeling rather uneasy and lacked confidence. To work around this we all used WhatsApp during our BBOL

session, in this way we were able to support each other and discuss our next steps.

Following the easing of the most recent lockdown restrictions, Brenda invited us to play Bridge in her garden (socially distanced and masked). We took it in turns to attend in groups of four with Brenda supporting us and supplying extra tuition. Playing face to face was much better and we all benefited from this.

We are now fledglings, needing to survive on our own. We all hope to join the U3A Group 'Sociable Bridge' in due course. The seven of us who have benefited from Brenda's knowledge would like to say a very big 'Thank you' to her. So Brenda – thank you so very much for the time you have given us and the patience you have needed, we have all had a great time and are now enjoying the game – from Roberta, Lois, Charles, Iain, Sandy, Julie and Jacky.

PS – a special 'thank you' to Lois too for arranging all of the BBOL sessions and co-ordinating with Brenda as to who would be playing Bridge in her garden.



How many times have you been watching a film and been amazed at what is being passed off as reality? Implausible events and chronological inaccuracies are common, but after reading this article you will be able to bore your friends with things that actually did happen! Click [HERE](#) to read it.

If you have ever wondered about the best way to pass the condiments while maintaining social distancing, click [HERE](#) to find out.

I just hope his food tasted okay in the end.





Dear Members,

I can hardly believe that we're halfway through 2021 already, now that June is Bustin' Out All Over.

So much has been achieved since my last missive such that our Development Plan has steadily been reduced in its objectives. Thanks are due to many people including:

- Paul Carter and his moderators for our Facebook page which now has 134 members
- Jim Hay has developed a range of very attractive leaflets and posters which have been distributed round the Committee and others who volunteered to help. I hope we can take them into hospitals, Libraries, Surgeries and Dental practices soon.
- Ian Homewood continues to produce our brilliant Newsletter which is also featuring at National level (see below).
- Ian is also working hard with David Eyes (a new member) on designing a revamped version of Southport u3a's website. That should be completed by Christmas.
- Steve Birchall has set up several Zoom meetings on different subjects, all of which have been both informative and enjoyable.
- The Local History group has been organising picnics in Kings Gardens together with an interesting tour around the gardens.
- Some Groups are already beginning to start up again.

No wonder that time has flashed past so quickly!

Congratulations must be paid to Peter and Janet Oldham whose article on the Oldham household lockdown was noticed by the North West Regional Officer for PR, Theresa Rogers, and will be included in the June edition of the National Newsletter. This will certainly help to raise the profile of Southport u3a on a local and national basis.

The Oldham's success also struck a chord with me by way of thinking it might be a good idea to sponsor a competition to encourage others to write an article for publication in the Newsletter.

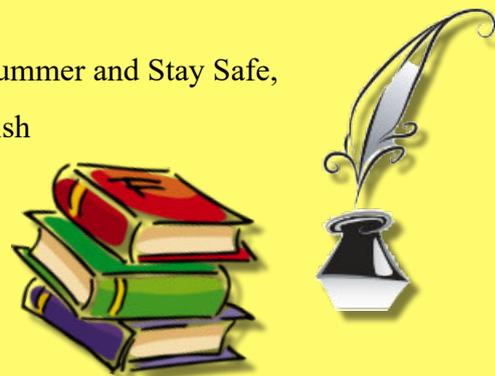
So, on the basis that within each and every one of us there is a book, your challenge is to submit a story of between 250 and 500 words on any subject of your choice during the Merry Month of June.

These will be judged by three members of the Committee comprising me, (well, it was my idea!), Jim Hay and Ian Homewood. The winner can expect an appropriate prize and depending on your uptake of this idea, we may run it more regularly.

So, start sharpening your pencils now and we look forward to seeing the results of your work! The deadline for your submissions is the end of June. Please send them to editor@southportu3a.org.uk and clearly mark them with the subject 'u3a Writing Competition'

Enjoy your Summer and Stay Safe,

Paddy McNeish



If a bottle of poison reaches its expiration date, is it more poisonous or is it no longer poisonous?

Which letter is silent in the word "Scent," the S or the C?

Do twins ever realise that one of them is unplanned?

Why is the letter W in English called double 'U'? Shouldn't it be called double 'V', as it is in French?

Maybe oxygen is slowly killing you and it just takes 75-100 years to fully work.

Every time you clean something, you just make something else dirty.

The word "swims" upside-down is still "swims"

100 years ago, everyone owned a horse and only the rich had cars. Today everyone has cars and only the rich own horses.



NAME THE PAINTERS OF THESE FAMOUS PAINTINGS



A



B



C



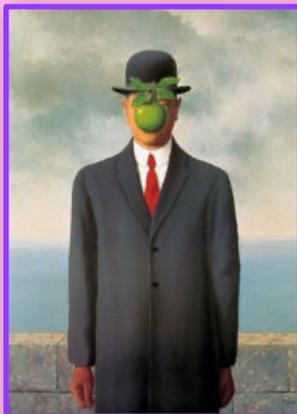
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E



F



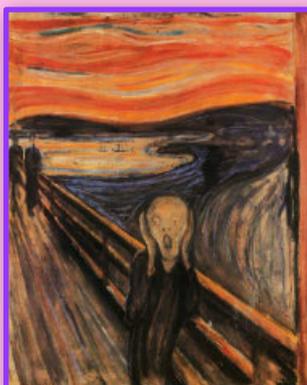
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K

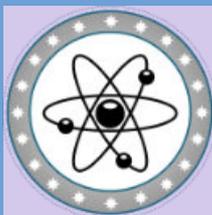
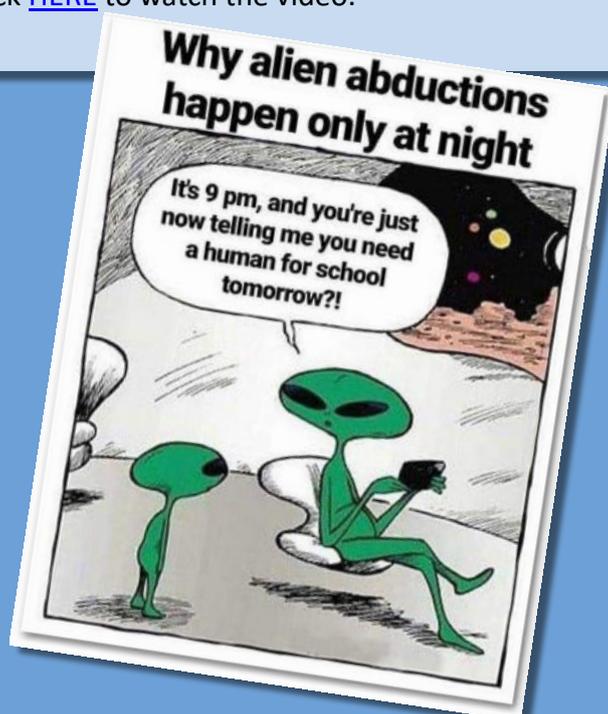


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- A - The Fighting Temeraire - Turner
- B - Irises - Van Gogh
- C - The Haywain - Constable
- D - Luncheon of the Boat Party - Renoir
- E - Three Musicians - Picasso
- F - Sunrise - Monet
- G - The Son of Man - Rene Magritte
- H - Persistence of Memory - Salvador Dali
- I - The Birth of Venus - Botticelli
- J - The Scream - Edvard Munch
- K - Massacre of the Innocents - Rubens
- L - The Night Watch - Rembrandt

Everybody thought they knew how World War 1 started. That is until Edmund Blackadder and crew came up with an alternate suggestion. Click [HERE](#) to watch the video.



I know nuclear power is a controversial subject. I've long believed that it is the only way humanity will be able to keep up with power requirements and simultaneously halt climate change.

Click [HERE](#) to read an article which *may* give you a new perception of nuclear.



If you missed John Dempsey's excellent talk about the Sefton Coast this week, click [HERE](#) to watch it on YouTube.



PICNIC IN THE PARK!

The Local History group are being optimistic and have decided to arrange a picnic in The Botanic Gardens on Thursday 24th June.

These Gardens are easily accessible as there is parking and also the number 49 bus runs past the gate at the main entrance.

Clearly, we do not know whether there will be any covid restrictions prevailing on this date but if that is the case, then we will take the appropriate steps to ensure compliance.

We ask that members meet near to the Bandstand at 12 noon. However, we think the picnic will last up to about 2.00pm so you are welcome to attend at any time .

Food and drinks can be bought at the cafe which is near to the main gate or you can bring your own food and drink! Please also bring a chair!

We have leaflets available to hand out which provide the history of Churchtown and members can either leave their belongings with the leaders whilst doing the tour around Churchtown village or, the leaflet can be taken away and used at another time.

If you wish to attend this event, you will need to apply via beacon. In doing this, we will know who is coming so that in the event of a late change to our plans, we are able to contact everyone concerned.

So if you are free on Thursday 24th and would like to meet up for a catch up, then please feel free to join us.

Helen, Jean and Myra.



Walking Group 4 have started their weekly walks, now we have a little more freedom and can meet outdoors in larger groups.

It is wonderful to be walking in glorious weather, enjoying camaraderie and conversation with walking friends who we haven't seen for a very long time. These are more than walks but a chance to charge up our depleted social batteries!

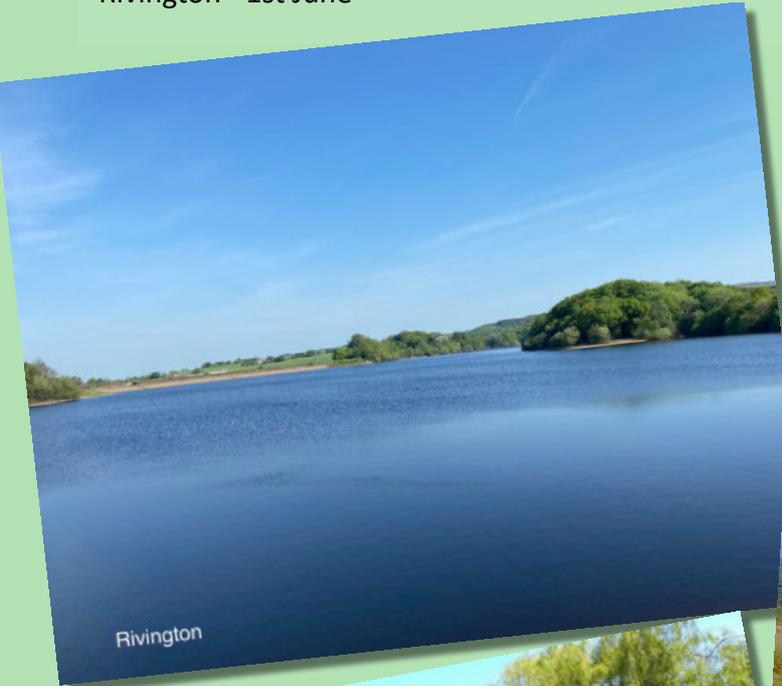
- Scorton - 19th May
- Worthington Lakes - 27th May
- Rivington - 1st June



learn, laugh, live



Scorton



Rivington



Nicky Nook (Scorton)



Arley Hall



Worthington Lakes (River Douglas)