



# Newsletter 26-06-2021



Badminton 3 are looking for additional players to join them at the Southport YMCA on Fridays. They play from 11:00 to 13:00 and welcome players of any standard.

If you would like to join them, please [email Yvonne McCulloch](#).



Ian Stern has been running the singalong group every two weeks on Zoom during the pandemic.

He would like to return to meeting monthly in a room somewhere (venue yet to be found and subject to any Covid restrictions) with lots of space, good air circulation and lots of singers!

Please [let Ian know via email](#) if you would like to come along.

Guitar group 1 has started meeting indoors again (subject to any Covid restrictions) and has space for new members. If you have some guitar playing experience and would like to learn more, please [contact Ian Stern](#)



Continuing our recurring theme of clever people doing things, how about a gate carving made using a chainsaw? Click [HERE](#) to watch the video.



Tai Chi 2 leaders, Bob Anscombe and Terry Atkins, apologise that the restart of their group has been delayed until Thursday 9 September, always assuming there are no further issues with COVID.

Apologies for inconvenience and frustration.

Are you ready to have your brain expanded? Electric vehicles may not yet be dominating our roads and there are definitely question marks over the battery technology currently employed, but there is no doubting the clever engineering inside them.



Click [HERE](#) to watch a video about a Tesla development.



Move over 'Duelling Banjos', it's time to meet some young Bluegrass talent.

No matter your taste in music, you have to admire people this talented. Click [HERE](#) to watch the video.



## HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW YOUR HISTORY??



- 1 - Which war began on 10<sup>th</sup> October 1899
- 2 - Which nation gave The Statue of Liberty to the United States
- 3 - What was discovered in California in 1848



4 - The Roman Road, Ermine Street, ran from London to where



5 - Who was the first British Prime Minister to be elected during the reign of Queen Elizabeth II

6 - In which year did the gunpowder plot take place

7 - “Charles Lynton” were the middle names of which British Prime Minister

8 - What did the first text message sent in the UK on 3<sup>rd</sup> December 1992 say

9 - Which Cardinal was responsible for developing Hampton Court

Palace



10 - Who was the first US President to occupy The White House

11 - In Which British city did “The Peterloo Massacre” take place in 1819



12 - In World War II what was Operation Sea Lion

13 - How many children did Queen Victoria have

14 - What was Botswana called prior to 1966

15 - Who served as Richard Nixon’s first Vice-president



16 - Who got thrown out of Parliament in April 2016 after calling the then Prime Minister “Dodgy Dave”

17 - Released in February 1970 which album by an English band is said to be

the first of the Heavy Metal genre



18 - Before the conflict in Afghanistan, which was the longest war in US history

19 - Who, in the 1500’s in England was known as Elizabeth I’s spy-master

20 - Which war was known as “The Great War”



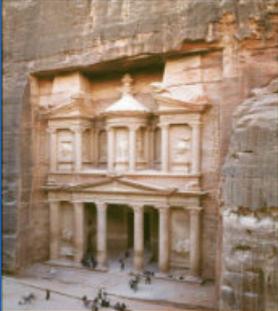
# The Seven Ancient & Modern Wonders of the World

by Vivianne Rowen  
who is our u3a Egyptology Group Leader

On **THURSDAY 1<sup>st</sup> JULY at 10.30 am**

Join Vivianne Rowan as she journeys through time and space exploring these incredible feats of human ingenuity and artistry.

You will travel through the fabled gardens of Babylon, before moving around the world to the explore the wonders of our modern world and lost civilisations, ending up at the only surviving wonder of the ancient world.



Vivianne has worked in the Petrie Museum at the UCLA in London and at the Egyptian Museum in Cairo on a special project working alongside world-renowned archaeologist Dr Zawi Hawass.

**ALL U3A MEMBERS WILL RECEIVE A ZOOM LINK FOR THIS TALK A COUPLE OF DAYS BEFORE**



Southport Pier is a place that holds fond memories for many who have grown up on in Southport and it recently celebrated its 160th birthday.

The Grade II-listed pier was host to famous entertainers throughout the years, including Charlie Chaplin in the early 20th century, and was visited by steam-liners in its heyday.

At 1,107m long it is Britain's second-longest after Southend Pier. It has come to epitomise everything need on a day out in a traditional seaside holiday town.



The pier was closed to the public during the Second World War and used as a base to operate searchlights to detect enemy aircraft travelling to Liverpool docks. It did not reopen again until 1950.

### The building of Southport Pier

With talk of constructing the country's first pleasure pier going back over a decade beforehand, building work finally started in August 1859.

It was opened on August 2, 1860, with a grand procession and holds the record as the oldest iron pier in the country.

Waiting rooms for boat passengers were added during the pier's first few years of operation, and a cable-operated tramway was installed in 1865.

Visitors had to pay a toll which was priced deliberately high at sixpence (6d) – equivalent to around £2.50 in today's money – to ensure only the most affluent could afford to visit the new attraction.

But by the 1870s, the numbers of working-class visitors increased and tolls were reduced to two pennies (2d).

### Southport Pier's near destruction

Throughout its history, a number of natural and man-made disasters have threatened to destroy the pier. Storms caused damage to the pier's foundations and buildings throughout the late-1880s and early-1890s.



A fire in September 1897 destroyed the original pavilion, which was replaced in January 1902 with a grander structure that included an auditorium.

Another large fire in July 1933 destroyed the pier head, with the cost of repairing the damage deemed unaffordable by the Southport Pier Company, which ended up selling the structure to Southport Corporation in June 1936.



### The pier is temporarily closed

In June 1959, a significant fire destroyed 460sq m (5,000sq ft) of decking, reducing its length to the present day 1,107 m (3,633ft). The pier's deterioration continued during the latter part of the 20th century which was worsened by a storm in 1989, causing extensive damage.

## SOUTHPORT PIER (cont)

Despite the pier's listed status, Sefton Council sought to demolish it in December 1990 due to the rising cost of repairs and maintenance but was defeated by a single vote.

In October 1998, the pier received a heritage grant of £1.7 million from the Heritage Lottery Fund, awarded to support restoration and access.



Work to restore the pier was completed and reopened to the public in May 2002 with the restoration costing £7.2 million, complete with a new tram that takes you right to the pier head.

Today, the pier is an open platform with modern railings built on an older base and a deck made of hardwood slats that allow the partial view of the sea below.

The modern pavilion structure at the pier head houses a cafeteria overlooking the beach and has a collection of vintage mechanical amusement machines and penny arcades.

And Silcocks Funland still sits at the pier entrance and has plenty of amusements including the famous Golden Gallopers' carousel on the pier forecourt.



*And what's more, you can still grab a traditional fish and chips!!*

Courtesy: Liverpool Echo

learn,  
laugh,  
live



A new exhibition opens this weekend, at the Atkinson in Southport. Running until next March, it is entitled 'Courage and Devotion' and focuses on the Polish Airmen who were based at RAF Woodvale and the surrounding area.

Although the exhibition is now on, the curator is still interested in additional material. If you have any relevant memorabilia or stories, please [email Joanne Chamberlain](mailto:Joanne.Chamberlain) about it.

They say the sun always shines on the righteous but this isn't necessarily the case! The righteous, i.e. Southport U3a Local History group, met at the Botanic Gardens for a socially distant picnic. The sun chose not to shine, but members enjoyed a chance to have a get together and socialise with others in pleasant surroundings.

Our next event is the Waterloo Walk on 14th July. Will the sun shine on us then? .....



AD363: Roman Emperor Julian is killed during retreat from the Sassanid Empire. General Jovian is proclaimed Emperor by troops on the battlefield.



1794: Battle of Fleurus: major victory by forces of the First French Republic under General Jean-Baptiste Jourdan over the Coalition Army (Great Britain, Hanover, Dutch Republic, and Habsburgs) first use of reconnaissance balloon

1857: The first 62 recipients are awarded the Victoria Cross for valour in the Crimean war by Queen Victoria

1917: 1st US troops arrive in France during World War I

1945: United Nations Charter signed by 50 nations in San Francisco

2016: Panama Canal's third set of locks opens for commercial traffic, doubling the Canal's capacity at an estimated cost of \$5.25 billion

- 1 - The Boer War
- 2 - France
- 3 - Gold, leading to the Gold Rush of 1849
- 4 - Lincoln and York
- 5 - Sir Anthony Eden
- 6 - 1605
- 7 - Tony Blair
- 8 - "Merry Christmas"
- 9 - Thomas Wolsey
- 10 - John Adams
- 11 - Manchester
- 12 - The planned German invasion of the UK
- 13 - Nine
- 14 - Bechuanaland
- 15 - Spiro Agnew
- 16 - Dennis Skinner
- 17 - Black Sabbath
- 18 - The Vietnam War
- 19 - Francis Walsingham
- 20 - World War One



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In 1916, Adeline and Augusta Van Buren became the first women to travel across the US on two solo motorcycles. They made it despite frequently being arrested for wearing pants.

This is an asteroid crater in Arizona. Look how close it came to hitting the visitor center....



How fast was the ostrich running when it hit the tree?

