



Speaker for the October meeting.



Unfortunately, our booked speaker couldn't attend but happily Stewart Walsh stepped in & didn't disappoint with an Impromptu amusing talk on My/our Generation about times past & present & his affiliation with conkers.

We were treated to a trip down memory lane as he reminisced about his childhood, brought up on the outskirts of St Helens in the 1940s. He reminded us of how life was back then. The freedom of playing out all day with a gang of friends, sadly the term 'gang' having different connotations now. How we all walked or biked everywhere, no one had a lift to school whatever the weather.



TV (if you were wealthy enough to have one) was a large piece of furniture with a tiny screen & only two channels that closed down at midnight. Computers were the size of a room & considered as futuristic as Startrek.

I think most of us could identify with all his reflections on times gone by. He went on to point out how in modern times we nearly all live a life that revolves around technology, practically everyone has a smart phone, really a mini personal computer, now our methods of communication being so often electronic. Our lives have changed dramatically over the years & his light-hearted talk gave us all something to muse over & as a finale he showed us his conker.

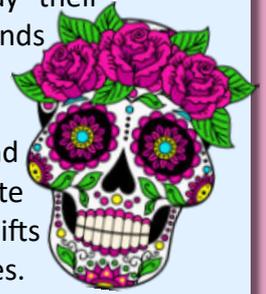
Diane Fitton



If you happen to be in Mexico at the end of October, you may come across a celebration called '[Day Of The Dead](#)', or 'Día de los Muertos'.

This holiday takes place on November 1st and 2nd and is a joyful celebration in which families and their friends gather to pay their respect to family and friends who have died.

Altars are built at home and loaded with the favourite foods of the departed. These gifts are also often taken to the graves.



An elderly man is driving down the M1 when his mobile phone rings. He answers it (on hands free) and finds it is his wife.

"Albert!" she says "Please be careful driving home. I've just heard on the news that there is a maniac, driving the wrong way on the M1!"

"It isn't just one!" Albert replies. "There are flippin' hundreds of them!!"

Do you have something on your mind about the u3a you need to talk about?

Do you have suggestions for how we can make our u3a better?

Do you just want to talk about your u3a and what you need from it?

Do you want to talk about taking on a new challenge with the u3a?



Dawn Oldfield and I will be running a

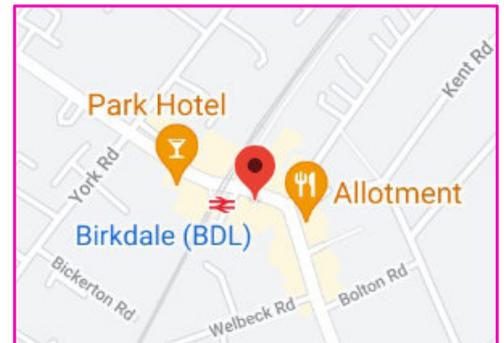
DROP-IN CLINIC

Every Tuesday from 10.15 through to 12.00

We will be meeting in the upstairs meeting room at The Stationmasters House/ Community Library in Birkdale next to the Station (see map)

If you wish to meet with us please fill in the form below, giving a brief summary of what you want to talk about, and email to Dawn at dawnoldfield@yahoo.co.uk

Paddy



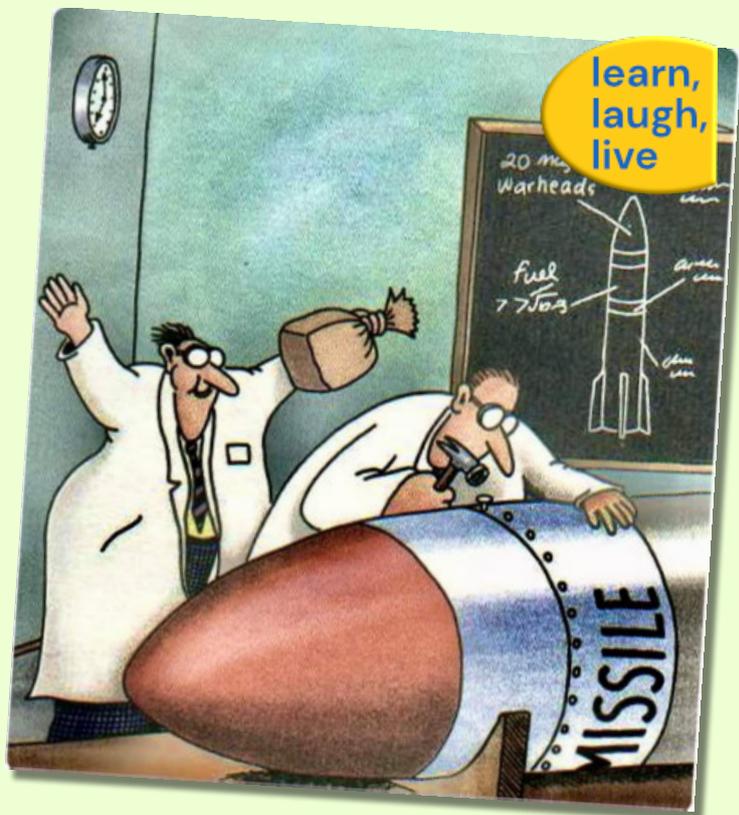
NAME	GROUP	TIME	BRIEF SUMMARY	OUTCOME
		10.15		
		10.30		
		10.45		
		11.00		
		11.15		
		11.30		
		11.45		



Following the retirement of Alan Patmore from the role of Treasurer, Moira Ralph has kindly agreed to step in as Interim Treasurer, pending the next AGM.



A previous Southport u3a Treasurer, I'm sure all members will welcome Moria back to the fold.



The Let's Go group dug out their code books, made sure the geese were flying South for the winter and took part in a spy themed treasure trail earlier this month.

A seasoned spy always gets to the rendezvous early, to make sure there are no alien operatives there. Two of our team followed this to the letter, getting to the meeting point an hour early!

The trail started and ended at Lime Street, taking in a number of landmarks, both famous and less well known, during the route.

After a couple of hours of clue solving and ice cream eating, the trail finished and our hardy spooks adjourned for dinner at Bistro Pierre on Button Street.

Let's Go is a good training ground for new Group Leaders and Maria Ashton did an excellent job of leading this event.

Photo Group 1 enjoying their new meeting venue, at Ainsdale Methodist Church (photo courtesy of S. Birchall)

The group still has space for more members, if you are interested [visit the group page](#) and contact the leader.



Seventeen members of [Walking Group 1](#) were out around Ince Blundell this week. Mary and Ilush led us on a very pleasant walk, through fields in the surrounding area. Fortunately, as we have had no rain recently it was quite dry under foot, otherwise we might have been plodding through muddy fields.

All agreed it was nice to get out walking in the countryside again and the walk finished with a pleasant lunch at Lady Green Garden Centre.





It's that time of year again, All Hallows Eve, the nights draw in & we can expect spooky goings on as the moon shines eerily through the bare tree branches. Actually that was before Global Warming, October was officially autumn & leaves had usually fallen by then.

Anyway, back in the day, unless you were a bona fide witch, Halloween wasn't such a big deal, we had Trick or Treat & did fun things with apples – Toffee Apples, Bob Apples & trying to eat an apple on a string, no-hands, but no one would think of scaring their children

half to death by dressing them up as vampires, witches & blood-stained corpses with axes stuck in their heads. A house draped with spiders & cobwebs was down to poor housekeeping & if you fancied a Jack-o-lantern it had to be carved out of a turnip or a swede at the risk of losing a few fingers & that was just about as grisly as it got.



But now the Supermarkets are stuffed with racks of macabre outfits, skeletons, severed limbs & more spiders than you can shake a stick at. If you really want to push the boat out & scare the wits out of your guests 'The Range' have a particularly gruesome selection of ghosts & zombies in coffins etc, all animated & accompanied by with the sound of groans, anguished cries & plenty of chain rattling to enhance the experience, batteries not included. If you are into online shopping, you can

buy a ten-foot inflatable ghost from Amazon for less than fifty quid including delivery - bargain! In 2019 we Brits spent nearly £5million on Halloween celebrations. Probably not so much in 2020 but that was a proper Horror Story!



You may ask 'how did this happen?' Well of course it came from the USA, Halloween was originally linked to a Celtic festival & introduced to America by Settlers from Scotland & Ireland in the 1840's. By the 1900's they had cheerfully embraced the fun bit of this Pagan ritual & soon commercialised it. They carved up pumpkins because they had lots of them & they were much safer & easier to chisel & being a sociable lot they had Halloween parties & told ghost stories. Traditionally in American culture everything must be bigger & better & so it was, soon Halloween was a big deal with every kind of ghoulish trapping you could think of, in 2019 they spent \$8.8 billion on this new festival. By the early 2000's all this grim 'fun' started to filter across to the UK & now we are just as keen to scare the pants off family & friends & fill the house with hideous props .

So now you know who to blame as trolley full of pumpkins, bag of ghoulish paraphernalia, then put out of the boot. The average you buy one for each family quite a heft.



you try to balance your groceries on a bones, pop out eyeballs & other your back out lifting them all in then pumpkin weighs at least 1.5Kg so if member to carve out that can be

So, Beware Halloween, don't forget the fake blood, jump the queue in A&E!

have a fiendishly fun time & comes in very handy if you want to

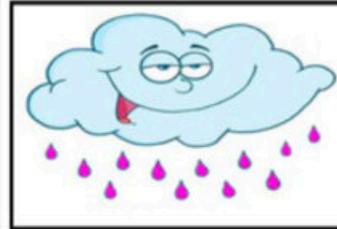




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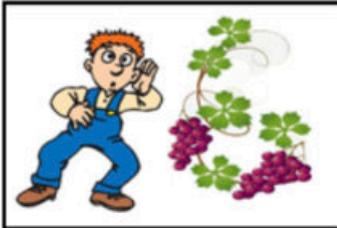
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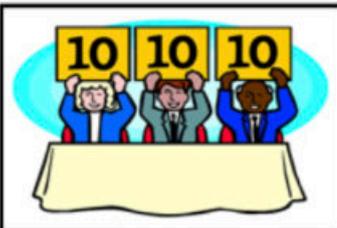
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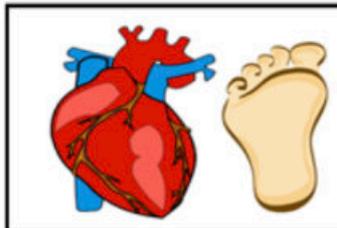
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We were fortunate enough to have the pleasure of visiting the Observatory in Hesketh Park with Bob Mount. Bob is the leader of the u3a Astrological Group and he is a fountain of knowledge about the park and the Observatory and the past importance of Southport in the world of Astrology.

The Observatory was owned by Joseph Baxendale who moved to Southport from Manchester and who was a leading astronomer and meteorologist. The Cooke telescope was donated to him by Thomas S Bazley and after his death in 1887, this and the Observatory was donated by his family to the then Southport Corporation.

Now owned by Sefton Council it is run by volunteers who help to keep local interest in Astronomy alive. Our members were able to enjoy an informative stroll in the park and visit the Observatory to hear about its history and how the telescope works.



During September, we also had a tour of the Harris Museum in Preston which is due to close shortly for a refurbishment and also a further walk with blue badge guide Ann Marshall “the birth of Waterloo”. It is unfortunate that Staff at the Harris Museum advised at the last minute to say they could not proceed with a tour on the date we had booked so it was necessary to rearrange a tour at short notice. Anyone who has paid for the original date and was not able to attend the changed visit should call to our desk at the next monthly meeting for a refund.



October 14th we had a walk with Ann Marshall entitled “the seven original streets of Liverpool”.

And so what’s next?

November 11th we will be visiting Strawberry Fields in Liverpool.

This exhibition has recently won an award and is of course famous because of the Beatles song. It’s an interactive experience that tells interweaving stories of the house, the Salvation Army, John Lennon’s childhood, the writing and recording of Strawberry Fields forever.

Places need to be booked via Beacon. We will travel to Liverpool on the Merseyrail train, alighting at Central Station. The leaders will take the group on the bus to the venue. We will have coffee/tea and for those who wish to have lunch it will be possible to choose your food before having our tour. Please note it will be possible to have either a self-guided tour or a guided tour whichever is preferred on the day. The cost of the tour is £7.00. Our lunches will be ready when we have finished the tour. This is a full day out and hopefully will be a very enjoyable one!

So it’s onwards and upwards for [Local History](#) and we look forward to seeing you at one of our events.

Helen, Jean and Myra.

Saturday 30th October 2021

12:30 - Leicester City v Arsenal
BT Sport

17:30 - Tottenham Hotspur v Man Utd
Sky Sports

Sunday 31st October 2021

14:00 - Norwich City v Leeds United
Sky Sports

16:30 - Aston Villa v West Ham United
Sky Sports

Monday 1st November 2021

20:00 - Wolves v Everton
Sky Sports

Friday 5th November 2021

20:00 - Southampton v Aston Villa
Sky Sports

Saturday 6th November 2021

12:30 - Man Utd v Man City
Sky Sports

17:30 - Brighton & Hove v Newcastle United
BT Sport

Sunday 7th November 2021

14:00 - Arsenal v Watford
Sky Sports

16:30 - West Ham United v Liverpool
Sky Sports

Saturday 20th November 2021

12:30 - Leicester City v Chelsea
BT Sport

17:30 - Liverpool v Arsenal
Sky Sports

Sunday 21st November 2021

14:00 - Man City v Everton
Sky Sports

16:30 - Tottenham Hotspur v Leeds United
Sky Sports

Saturday 27th November 2021

12:30 - Arsenal v Newcastle United
BT Sport

17:30 - Brighton & Hove Albion v Leeds United
Sky Sports

Sunday 28th November 2021

14:00 - Brentford v Everton
Sky Sports

16:30 - Chelsea v Man Utd
Sky Sports

Tuesday 30th November 2021

19:45 - Aston Villa v Man City
Amazon Prime Video

19:45 - Everton v Liverpool
Amazon Prime Video

19:45 - Leeds United v Crystal Palace
Amazon Prime Video

19:45 - Watford v Chelsea
Amazon Prime Video

19:45 - West Ham Utd v Brighton & Hove Albion
Amazon Prime Video

19:45 - Wolves v Burnley
Amazon Prime Video

20:00 - Man Utd v Arsenal
Amazon Prime Video



- 1 Rule the World
- 2 Red Red Wine
- 3 Purple Rain
- 4 Love is all Around
- 5 I Heard it through the Grape Vine
- 6 Chelsea Dagger
- 7 Titanium
- 8 Lego House
- 9 Living on a Prayer
- 10 Black Magic
- 11 China in your Hand
- 12 Twist and Shout
- 13 Knocking on Heavens Door
- 14 Lady in Red
- 15 Benny and the Jets
- 16 Rollover Beethoven
- 17 Perfect Ten
- 18 Heart and Soul
- 19 Boogie Wonderland
- 20 Dancing in the Moonlight
- 21 Angels
- 22 Road to Hell
- 23 Arms around the World
- 24 Turning Japanese

Cookie Banners

This isn't about biscuits & flags, it's about internet browsing & those annoying boxes that pop up & block your view of or freeze the screen of a website until you have clicked on 'Accept Cookies'.

So, what are 'Cookies', if you bother to read the blurb it explains it is a mechanism to collect your data to enhance your browsing experience, they are a necessary part of web browsing, collecting data about you & your perusing habits & can tailor your browsing to give you a more personal & convenient website visit.

This information is possibly shared so other retail companies can see what you're interested in & bombard you with ads for products that might be relevant.

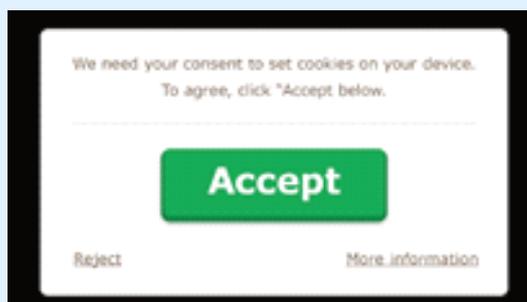
To comply with current legislation, they need your permission to collect & store this data so by clicking

on 'Accept Cookies' you are giving your consent.

Cookies let websites remember you, your website logins, shopping carts and more. But they can also be a treasure trove of private information for criminals & scammers.



So, should you routinely agree to accept Cookies? Click on this [link](#) for a more technical explanation & some sage advice from The Readers Digest.



"My dog has no nose!" is probably familiar to everybody.

How about "My cockpit has no window!" Would you like to fly on that plane?

Click [HERE](#) to find out.



We have all seen the photos and black and white film of skyscrapers being built in New York. Click [HERE](#) for a film of somewhere a little closer to home.



When you unexpectedly show up at the Olympic Games



Four old-timers were playing their weekly game of golf when one of them commented on how nice it would be to wake up on Christmas morning, roll out of bed - and without an argument, go directly to the golf course to meet his buddies for 18 holes. All three of his friends unanimously agree, "Let's do it! We'll make it a priority, figure out a way and meet here early Christmas morning!"

A few weeks later it's Christmas morning - and there all are standing next to each other on the first tee box. One friend exclaims "Boy this game cost me a fortune! I had to buy my wife such a huge diamond ring, she can't even take her eyes off it." Another friend says, "I spent a ton, too. My wife is at home planning the cruise I gave her. She was up to her eyeballs in brochures." The third friend replies "Well, my wife is at home admiring her new car... reading the manual." Silence from the fourth guy...

The other three friends in the group look puzzled, while the final guy in the foursome is staring at them like they must have lost their minds. "I can't believe you all went to such an expense for a round of golf. I just woke up, slapped her on the butt and said, 'Well babe, Merry Christmas! Golf or sex, what's it gonna be?'" and she said "Take a sweater."

Have you ever wondered why we carve pumpkins at Halloween? There are some amazing templates available these days but how did it all start?



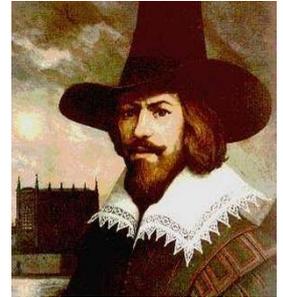
[Here](#) is an article which explains the tradition.

We all know that Mother Nature is an incredible artist. Click [HERE](#) for more proof (warning weird and sometimes slimy thing alert).





We all know the history behind our tradition of burning wicked old Guy Fawkes on a bonfire, but when did the fireworks come be part of it? History tells us they were first used as part of the Bonfire Night celebrations in the 1650s, made of gunpowder it was thought very fitting to add a few cheerful explosions when setting fire to his effigy.



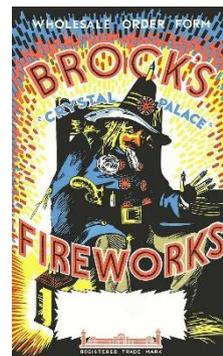
Legend has it that Fireworks were discovered thousands of years ago by the Chinese around 200BC, they accidently mixed chemicals to create an early form of gunpowder & found that when they stuffed it in bamboo stalks & threw it in a fire, they had made the first firecrackers, got a lovely loud bang & lots of sparks which was very useful for scaring away enemies & evil spirits. The story goes that in 800AD an alchemist mixed sulphur, charcoal & saltpetre together hoping to find the secret to eternal life, but the mixture caught on fire & thus real gunpowder was invented.



Gunpowder & Fireworks a such were probably brought to Europe from the East by the Crusaders in the 14th Century & soon became a form of international entertainment, they were only in the colour orange but still must have been a rare & novel exciting experience. The first recorded firework display in England was at Henry V11's wedding to Elizabeth of York in 1486. Queen Elizabeth 1 was very keen on them & created an honorary title 'Fire Master of England' for the person who created the best fireworks. Firework displays at that time were usually court festivals staged to

celebrate significant events & often involved elaborate scenery, artificial castles, monsters & an array of exotic pyrotechnics, but still orange. It wasn't until the 1830s that Italian pyrotechnics first added colour to fireworks with metallic salts, red, green, yellow & blue & potassium chlorate as an oxidiser to make the colours brighter. This was mixed with gunpowder then tightly packed into containers to make a display of explosions, flashes, bangs, sparks & noises which is what we can expect from the fireworks of today.

China is the biggest exporter of fireworks, but we do make them in the UK, the oldest company being **Brocks**, established in 1698, & **Pains** around the same time, there is a claim that the barrels of gunpowder used for the Gun Powder plot were produced by John Pain who was the founder of Pains. Other famous names



from the past are **Standard & Black Cat**. There are now 47 Pyrotechnics or manufacturers of Fireworks in the UK, most of them compete at our famous three-night Musical Fireworks Championship held here in Victoria Park. Started in 1999, tens of thousands of people attend this spectacular display in September & this year it was won by **Dragon Fireworks**. So there you have it, a brief history of Fireworks to bore the pants off the Grandchildren on Bonfire night!!

