



## From the Chair

Dear Members,

I am very pleased and proud to present you with the first edition of our new quarterly magazine. This publication marks the end of many months of hard work, discussions, meetings and a great deal of imagination and flair. I do hope you enjoy it and that you will be happy to lend it eventually to friends and colleagues who are not members of Southport u3a. Huge thanks are due to Ian Homewood who has collated the content of the magazine over many months and also to Jim Hay who has produced some really stunning artwork and design to make it all look professional and attractive. We are very fortunate to have people like them who are so talented and committed to our organisation.

The Committee continues to work hard behind the scenes and it is quite remarkable how much it has achieved with a membership of a mere eight people since I took over. We are all so energised now that we're making plans for next year already! But in order to continue our good work we need more Committee members. It cannot be expected that we provide the same high quality of service to our members without our members giving some help back. As John F Kennedy might say "Ask not what your u3a can do for you, but what you can do for your u3a". I can assure you that you'll receive a great welcome!

Warmest regards,

*Paddy*

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## YOUR COMMITTEE



**Chair**  
Paddy McNeish



**Vice-Chair**  
Sharon Partington



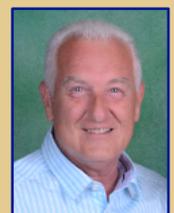
**Treasurer**  
Alan Patmore



**Secretary & Group Co-ordinator**  
Phil Watling



**Social Secretary**  
Vivienne Pulman



**Membership Secretary**  
Jim Hay



**Committee Member**  
Dawn Oldfield



**Newsletter Editor**  
Ian Homewood

## 2021 CHRISTMAS MEAL ANNOUNCED



The Southport u3a Christmas Meal for 2021 has just been published on our events calendar.

The meal will be held at the new refurbished Bliss Hotel on 9<sup>th</sup> December and will run from 12:00 until 17:30. Tickets will be priced £30 and can be obtained from Viv at her table at the monthly meetings.

For more information about the meal, visit the Events page on the u3a website.

## BANJOLELE GROUP AT CONNELL COURT



Southport u3a Banjolele Group entertaining residents and staff at Connell Court

Taking advantage of our wonderful spell of weather in July, a small group of players from the Banjolele group entertained staff and residents at Connell Court Nursing Home, just playing outside at a suitable distance.

They had a very warm reception after their performance. Hopefully this is the beginning of getting back to having fun, singing and playing with the rest of the group.

## COACH TRIPS RESUME



We are pleased to announce that we are now able to start planning coach trips again, obviously still following all guidelines.

We are starting with two 'old' favourite coach trips to get us back into our regular outings. They are two destinations that most members will be familiar with and offer plenty of outdoor space in which to explore at your own pace. On 4<sup>th</sup> September we were off to **Bowness on Lake Windermere**. On Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September - **Llandudno**. See inside this magazine for the details of the trip

In addition, following a large number of requests, we are planning a coach trip to RHS Bridgewater in the coming months. Look out for further details in the Newsletter.

Details of the booking process will be announced as soon as restrictions are eased and we have all the necessary agreed procedures in place.

*Derek & Anne*



## FIRST EVER WRITING COMPETITION RESULT ANNOUNCED

The 1<sup>st</sup> Southport u3a Writing Competition closed for entries on 30<sup>th</sup> June and has now been judged. We are pleased to announce that Sylvia Miley has been judged the winner and has received a £10 book token.

To read the winning entry from Sylvia, go to the News pages on the u3a website.

## WINE APPRECIATION GROUP POPS THE CORK



Southport u3a wine appreciation group 2 met for the first time face to face in 16 months.

We had a wonderful socially distant meeting, tasting our wines and the accompanied food.

A great afternoon was had by all and, to make it an even more special occasion, we were bathed in sunshine.

*Brenda*



## TAI CHI 1 TO RESUME

Tai Chi 1 will resume on Thursday 9 September at 10am at Lord Street

There are vacancies for 2 members who have previous experience.



Please contact Mike Huddleston on 01704 563401 with any queries

## SOUTHPORT U3A LOCAL HISTORY AT THE BOTANIC

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.

We are now increasing our list of events, so watch the Newsletter for details.



## GARDENING GROUP RESUMES



The Gardening Group held their first meeting on September 1<sup>st</sup>. All future meetings will be held on the 2<sup>nd</sup>

Wednesday.

The programme for the rest of the year is as follows

**13<sup>th</sup> October:** Diane Harrison from Avant Garden Centre. Autumn planting and ongoing colour in your borders.

**10<sup>th</sup> November:** Jackie Iddon lets make it a 'Special Christmas'

**8<sup>th</sup> December:** Competition of Christmas Floral Decorations and a social get together.



# NEWS ROUNDUP

## MEET AND EAT

A waiting list is currently in operation for the Meet and Eat group. If anybody would like to start a second Meet and Eat group they should contact Dawn Oldfield, the Group Activities Co-ordinator - [dawnoldfield@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:dawnoldfield@yahoo.co.uk)



## NEW GROUP - YOGA

We are pleased to announce that we now have a yoga group.



Classes are on Wednesday afternoons at Lord Street West church hall. Places are limited to 22 per session. If there is enough interest it may be possible to arrange a second session, also on Wednesday afternoons.

Members who are interested should register on Beacon. Once the group is full a waiting list will be in operation.

## Seenager

I **JUST** discovered my age group! I am a **Seenager** (senior teenager).

I have everything that I wanted as a teenager, only 55-60 years later. I don't have to go to school or work. I get an allowance every month. I have my own pad. I don't have a curfew. I have a driver's license and my own car.

I have ID that gets me into bars and the wine store. I like the wine store best. The people I hang around with are not scared of getting pregnant, they aren't scared of anything, they have been blessed to live this long, why be scared? And I don't have acne. Life is Good!

Also, you will feel much more intelligent after reading this, if you are a **Seenager**. Brains of older people are slow because they know so much. People do not decline mentally with age; it just takes them longer to recall facts because they have more information in their brains. Scientists believe this also makes you hard of hearing as it puts pressure on your inner ear.

Also, older people often go to another room to get something and when they get there, they stand there wondering what they came for. It is **NOT** a memory problem; it is nature's way of making older people do more exercise.

### SO THERE!

I have more friends I should send this to, but right now I can't remember their names. So please forward this to your friends; they may be my friends, too.



## CALLING ALL MEMBERS & GROUP LEADERS

Have you got interesting events or regular meetings coming up soon that you want to tell us about. Are you looking to recruit new members to your Group. Do you have a red hot idea to start a new group? If so, write to editor and give him all the details. Don't forget you now have **THREE** opportunities to get your message across.

So, to get your news in this printed Magazine, the Online Newsletter and the new u3a Website. Contact the editor NOW. His email address is:-

[editor@southportu3a.org.uk](mailto:editor@southportu3a.org.uk)

## LET'S GO VISIT SEFTON PARK

The daffodil walk in Sefton Park had to be postponed from March 2019 due to the pandemic, so how refreshing it was to walk around arguably Liverpool's best park, albeit without the daffodils.



Twenty members enjoyed magnificent sunshine visiting the Sefton Park Palm House and the Fairy Glen before decanting to Elif on Lark Lane for a late lunch.



How lovely to be all together again.

I was gutted not to be able to lead it but I was in isolation. Thank you to Shirley who stepped into the breach. - **Brenda Jones**



## BRENDA BANGS THE U3A DRUM

Former u3a Chair, Brenda Jones and former u3a Social Secretary, Bobbie Matthews ventured along to the 'The Sailings' in Alexandra Road to give a talk on the u3a to the residents. They had responded on behalf of the u3a, to a request from the residents, who wanted to know more about us.



Who better to talk about the u3a than Brenda. During Brenda's time as Chair she regularly visited most of the Groups, meeting with members and finding out about their activities and giving support where she could. So she has a detailed knowledge of our organisation. Bobbie attended as the 'official photographer'.

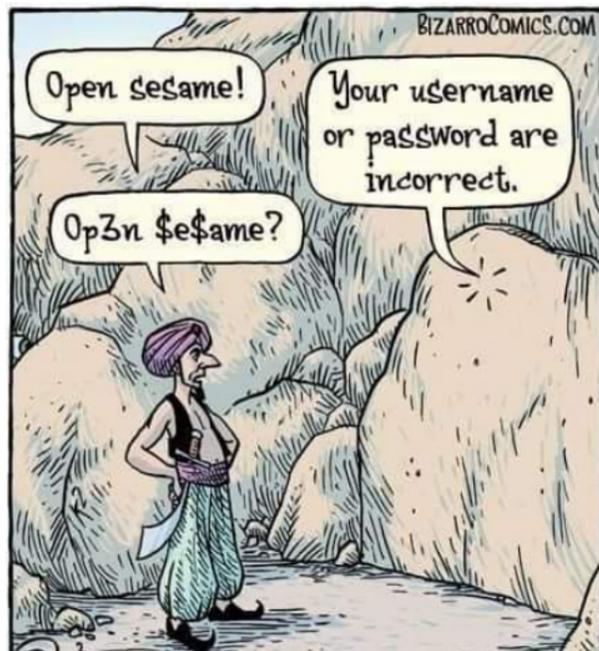
**Said Brenda later** - "Ten residents from the complex came to hear all about our wonderful u3a. We were armed with lots of brochures and worked to an outline talk that has been developed specifically for this type of meeting.

"Both Bobbie and I think we did Southport u3a proud talking about all the groups, activities, and outings. It is only when you have to talk about us to outsiders that you realise just how comprehensive our organisation is!

"We were delighted to tell them that despite the pandemic many of our groups were kept very active via zoom and that we are now very close to starting up all the groups again and opening up the monthly meetings".



If any of you are aware of groups like this who would benefit from someone going along and talking about our u3a, then please get in touch with Paddy to get it organised. ([paddylinch@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:paddylinch@yahoo.co.uk))



# U3A CYCLING GROUP GETS OFF THE MARK



The u3a Cycling Group has been meeting all through the summer, since we were first allowed to

meet in groups of six. At first we cycled strictly in groups of six with no mixing. Of course, since the restrictions have been lifted, we can get back to cycling together again. Most rides we have been averaging a 12-15 or so cyclists for our fortnightly meetings.

Our Group Leaders, Dave, Derek and Alan, have been scanning the local maps for routes. However, they kept us to relatively safe Southport areas for our first few outings, ensuring that we didn't need to use the train. But, as the summer has progressed, we have got back to using trains to take us to starting and finishing points when necessary.



The first few rides started at Kings Gardens, Southport Pier or the Ecocentre and saw us gently meander around seafront, Botanic Gardens, Hesketh, Ainsdale beach and in a variety of



local routes, all using cycle tracks, lanes and minor roads to keep us off the main roads. All about 15 miles or so.



Then we started getting brave and had rides that wandered as far as Hesketh Bank and Formby. As the summer has worn on and the restrictions eased and then lifted, we have been venturing on the train down to places like Hightown, Crosby, Aintree, the seafront at Waterloo and Blundellsands, along the coastal paths.

We have not yet resorted to one of my favourite routes which sees us take the ferry across to New Brighton and then cycle all the way round the Wirral coast to West Kirkby. Maybe after reading this our Group Leaders will add this wonderful route to this year's list. After all we cycle all the way through to October.



Of course, the essential ingredient in all these rides has been the places we stop for coffee, snacks – and in Dave's case – large filled sandwiches! Although we stop at a variety of places along the way, I think the general favourite is still Kitty's Tearooms at Freshfield Station.



Looking forward to more rides before the season finishes

Jim



We went along last week to experience the new Southport Market. It was buzzing! Great atmosphere, full of customers, great choice of foods and a feature bar in the middle.

The food we all had was excellent and good value for money. There is no doubt that this will become a GoTo place in Southport.

So, if you have not tried it, get along soon. Jim Hay



# LOCAL HISTORY FACE THEIR WATERLOO



Some of the wealthier visitors started to build residences. This early residential development was along the coastline known as Adelaide Terrace.



Number 17 was home to Edward Smith, captain of the ill fated RMS Titanic which sadly was lost on its maiden voyage in 1912. He perished along with over 1500 in the freezing waters of the Atlantic.



At the end of the terrace known as Beach Lawn, we saw the home of Henry Ismay who controlled The White Star line. He was a very

wealthy man who displayed his initials within the iron work at the front of his house.



Nowadays these charming Terraces offer us some wonderful examples of 19th century architectural styles and are well worth a visit.

Our guide was excellent; she lived in one of the cottages on Adelaide Terrace so was very well informed and passionate about the area.

It was an extremely interesting, enjoyable and educational walk and was thoroughly enjoyed by all.



The Local History Group enjoyed a walk with a blue guide recently, entitled 'The Birth of Waterloo'.

It was a walk of discovery around the hidden suburb which dates back from the battle of the same name.

Today the area is bordered by Crosby to the north, Seaforth to the south, the Rimrose Valley country park to the east and to the west Crosby Beach and Crosby Coastal Park.



In Georgian times the land was mainly an area of rough pasture. However an extensive shoreline, fine views and good sea air provided for the town's transformation.

In 1815 a hotel and six cottages were built. The hotel opened the following year and was named 'Royal Waterloo Hotel' in commemoration of the triumphant battle.

Gradually the area began to grow in popularity as a sea bathing place and coaches began to run regularly to the Royal Hotel.



# LLANDUDNO SEPTEMBER 25<sup>th</sup> COACH TRIP

As we were thinking about venues for starting up Coach trips again the decision to go to Llandudno was an easy one as we had a number of individual requests to visit again.

The Welsh Victorian seaside town of Llandudno has been a firm favourite holiday resort for many of our members over the years and many welcome the opportunity of revisiting the resort to relive some favourite memories either by staying in the resort or making the most of a day trip.



When we last visited, on Saturday 5th May 2018 the u3a enjoyed a day trip to Llandudno which was hosting its annual Victorian Extravaganza. We arrived in Llandudno in time for the grand parade. This included many attractions from the Victorian era including steam powered engines.

On this occasion there will not be any particular social events taking place that will encourage large gatherings. The resort does offer plenty of outdoor space in which to explore with a number of attractions available:

## North Shore promenade & 19th-century Llandudno Pier

Enjoy a stroll along the long and wide promenade which stretches all the way from the foot of the Great Orme to the Little Orme. The pier is popular for its extensive range of restaurants, food stands, and bars.



## Great Orme Tramway

This tramway has been running since the 1900s, making it one of the oldest street tramways in the world. The route consists of three stops, namely Victoria Station in the town centre, Halfway Station (where you need to disembark and switch trams), and the Great Orme Summit Station. Along the way, you'll pass through the picturesque Great Orme Country Park and Nature Reserve.



## Great Orme Mines

The mines are regarded as the largest prehistoric copper mines in the world. These narrow tunnels date back to the Bronze Age and features a 145-metre-deep Victorian mine shaft. The Great Orme Mines are within a 5-minute walk of the Tramway's Halfway Station.

## Cable Car

The Cable Car carries passengers from the Happy Valley Botanical Gardens towards the Great Orme Summit, offering panoramic views of the Irish Sea throughout the 20-minute journey. Established in 1969, it's one of the longest cable car systems in Great Britain.



## Happy Valley Gardens

Happy Valley is home to wildlife animals and plants, family walks, a putting green, a ski slope and the cable car base station, all situated on the side of the Great Orme in Llandudno.

This coach trip will take place on Saturday 25<sup>th</sup> September 2021. The coach will depart from Southport at 8.30am and returning at approximately 6.30pm. For further details contact Derek and Anne Kershaw on [derek.kershaw21@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:derek.kershaw21@blueyonder.co.uk)

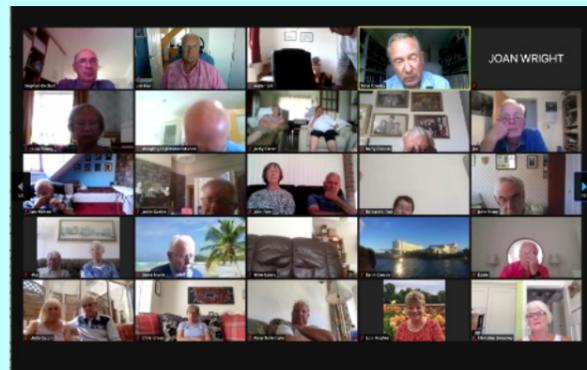


# THE LIFE OF SIR HENRY SEGRAVE

ZOOM TALK AT HOME

The largest turnout for the last few weeks enjoyed a Zoom talk by former Southport u3a member, Peter Cowley, all about a British pioneering speed enthusiast, Sir Henry Segrave.

However, Peter first talked about his exploits during the First World War, where he volunteered as a young 17 year old at the start of the war. In fact, while training at Sandhurst, he studied the fatalities of the various British Regiments and deliberately chose one with the highest casualty rate, to make sure he got in the middle of the action!



He was wounded, recovered, went back, wounded again and this time rather than be stuck at home, he volunteered to join the Royal Flying Corps and trained as a pilot. He went back to France and joined his unit which had a 75% fatality rate. Even so, he survived and very soon became a Wing Commander. He was

eventually shot down and returned to be posted to the War Ministry.

He was sent to Washington as the assistant to the Military Attache and there he discovered the joys of high speed motor racing. While there he raced cars and developed a reputation. He even went to Florida and raced high speed boats as well!



When he returned to the UK he applied to Sunbeam to be one of their racing drivers, but was rejected. So he went out and bought his own car, which he raced successfully in Grand Prix all over Europe. He was so good he soon came to the attention of Sunbeam again and they invited him to get involved in the project to build a car to challenge for the World Speed Record which at that time was held by Malcolm Campbell.



So it was that in 1926 he arrived in Southport with his Sunbeam and broke the World Land Speed Record on Ainsdale Beach. He went on to further increase the record at Daytona Beach in Florida. Alongside this he took up speedboat racing, winning the German and European speedboat championships. He was knighted by King George in 1929. However during an attempt on the World Water Speed Record on Lake Windermere in 1930, his boat struck a log and overturned. He and his crew were killed.

Peter then went on to describe the re-enactment of his record drive in 2016 on Ainsdale Beach to celebrate the 90th Anniversary of his record. They even had the original record breaking car there to race on the beach!!

# NEWS FROM U3A NATIONALLY & AROUND THE COUNTRY



## u3a 40th Anniversary Quilt workshops

The u3a Nationally have launched a Quilt Competition to celebrate the 40<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of the u3a. Individual u3as are being invited to submit a square for the quilt based on a local theme or a local well known feature. Members or Arts and Crafts Groups who want to submit a square should first of all contact the u3a to inform them of their idea. If accepted then they can go ahead with the project. Entry forms are available from the u3a at [u3a.office@u3a.org.uk](mailto:u3a.office@u3a.org.uk).



surveyed u3a members in their sixties said they had been described as 'elderly' despite nearly two fifths (37%) of them finding the term offensive.

The results contrasted strongly with how members saw themselves, with common responses in the survey including 'friendly', 'curious', 'intelligent' and 'independent'.

To support u3a members to challenge ageism, u3a and the Centre for Ageing Better have produced a toolkit which includes information and resources on how to challenge ageism including a 'Top Tips' guide.

Sam Mauger, CEO of the Third Age Trust, said: "u3a represents a diverse and enthusiastic group of members who are wonderful examples of what it means to age well. Our members all approach later life in different ways and we want to see this reflected in the way we talk about and think about ageing."

## u3a launches anti-ageism toolkit



u3a members across the country are joining forces with the Centre for Ageing Better on the first ever annual u3a day to call for an end to negative and damaging views of later life, shifting the focus to positive, more realistic depictions instead.

A survey of u3a members found that nearly 40% had heard ageist language used about their age group. Terms most commonly described by members as offensive included 'wrinkly' and 'past it'. 63% of members had heard their age group described as 'frail' and 53% had heard their age group described as 'geriatric'. A fifth (20%) of

"We want to shift the narrative around ageing to reflect the positive and realistic experiences of older adults which is why we have partnered with Ageing Better on a toolkit to combat ageism."

Louise Ansari, Director of Communications and Influencing, Centre for Ageing Better, said:

"Ageism affects us all, limiting our perceptions of what we can do as we get older, and leading to discrimination against those in later life. With all of us living longer, it's vital that we work together across society to combat harmful stereotypes so we can all make the most of our later years."

The final version along with the resources, including the press release outline, are available on resource space here: <https://ageingbetter.resourcespace.com>.

# SOUTHPORT U3A TAKING GREAT STRIDES FORWARD WITH IT'S COMMUNICATIONS

The last 18 months have probably been the strangest that any of us have lived through. We have been locked away, forced to do things quite unnatural to us, or our instincts, like wearing masks, keeping 2 metres from each other, not shaking hands. Not seeing relatives, not playing with grandchildren. Not being able to go to births, marriages - or deaths. We have stopped going to bars, restaurants, u3a days out, meetings. We have lost friends, neighbours. We have been locked in our four walls, suffering loneliness and depression in many cases.

**But through all this, we have found ways of enduring and getting through it. Our u3a is a great example of rising to the challenge that this pandemic has brought. We have adapted, changed and will never go back to the way things used to be done.**

All through this pandemic many of our groups have continued to meet using this new thing that none of us had heard of called **Zoom!**



Pilates, Chess, Astronomy, Bridge, French, Wine Appreciation, Singalong, Coffee Morning, Russian, Book Clubs, are but a few of our groups to master Zoom skills on our computers, lap tops and iPads.



Steve Birchall even started a **Zoom Talks at Home** group attended by upwards of 100 members all tuning in

over the internet.

However, it is not just Zoom where we have developed new skills and carried on with our life. Right from the start I produced a daily **"Lockdown Quiz"** delivered online.



Ian Homewood started his daily **online Newsletter** delivered to all members with internet (over 90% of our members).

With the enthusiastic support of our **New Chair, Paddy McNeish**, we have broadened our whole approach to communications, developing a broad range of methods to reach out to our existing members, but to attract new members as well.

Our membership has dropped this year by about 200. However this is not that different from any other year. The big difference is that with no monthly meetings, we have not been replacing them as we have in previous years. It is a fact of life that we will have a churning membership base and this is good for our development.



**A4 Brochures**

Your committee have been busy during this period, developing better ways of getting our message out to the wider community. **To this end we have developed a variety of new ways of communicating.**

In more conventional methods we have developed a **series of five A4 posters** which members can use to put up on notice boards in their local sports centre, Church, Doctors surgery, library and anywhere else that will have them.

We have developed **two brochures** that can be used and handed out to prospective members at shows, meetings, events around the town. As things open up we will be able to put these things to good use.

We have developed a **Standard Presentation** which will be available both in Powerpoint and in hard copy, together with a text to go with each slide - which **any of our members** will be able to use to present us to other groups. Brenda has just used it to present to a group in a retirement apartment block.



Ian has been producing the **Online Newsletter** - which will now go from weekly to monthly with the introduction of this Magazine.

**This Magazine** that you are reading is testament to a new approach to our communications.

Paul Carter has started a **Southport u3a Facebook site** - open to all u3a members - and giving us the ability to communicate with each other and get involved in discussions that affect us.



And as we speak Ian and Dave are **Learn, Laugh, Live**

completely overhauling the **u3a website** which will present you with up to the minute news about what is happening, up to the minute news about Groups. All the Group information that you are used to, but in a much more interactive way. It will give Group Leaders an opportunity to get their individual messages over to members in a more attractive attention grabbing way. There will be **calendars of events and Forums** to allow you start conversation threads on any topic you wish. In short, a bright, modern, interactive website fit for today and this new era in our development.



**To make all these things work - WE NEED MORE PEOPLE TO COME FORWARD.**

**PADDY NEEDS MORE PEOPLE WHO WILL HELP WITH GETTING PUBLICITY OUT AROUND THE TOWN.**

**IAN NEEDS TWO REPORTERS' WHO CAN GO TO GROUPS TO FIND OUT WHAT THEY ARE UP TO. GO TO EVENTS AROUND THE TOWN TO REPORT ON THEM.**

**HE NEEDS A COUPLE OF PHOTOGRAPHERS WHO HE CAN SEND TO TAKE SHOTS OF GROUPS AND EVENTS THAT WE CAN USE.**

**FINALLY HE NEEDS EVERY MEMBER TAKING PART IN AN EVENT, A DAY OUT, A COACH TRIP OR SOMETHING SPECIAL HAPPENING IN THEIR GROUP TO WRITE ABOUT IT AND, IF POSSIBLE, TAKE PICTURES.**

**COMMUNICATIONS ONLY HAPPENS IF WE MAKE IT HAPPEN - AND THAT MEANS EVERY SINGLE MEMBER**

**Jim Hay**

A COLLECTION OF PUZZLES TO KEEP THE OLD BRAIN CELLS WORKING

## WORD SEARCH

### Ice Cream Flavors

M	O	T	T	O	W	R	A	R	A	B	N	D	I
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TRIPLE TORNADO  
REESES  
NEOPOLITAN  
CHOCOLATE  
STRAWBERRY  
COTTON CANDY  
COCONUT  
ROCKY ROAD  
COOKIE DOUGH  
TIGER TAIL  
GREEN TEA  
HOKEY POKEY  
MAPLE WALNUT  
FUDGE  
PECAN  
BANANA  
VANILLA

## SUDOKO

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	4	9	8	5			7
8	1						

Software © 2015 crossword-compiler.com

## SPORTS ANAGRAMS

NESTLE IN BAT (5,6)

IS NO CHARGER (5,6)

BAT ON MIND (9)

IN NETS (6)

KEY CHOICE (3,6)

MYSTIC SANG (10)

TAKES ICING (3,7)

NOW GLIB (7)

I SIGNAL (7)

## CROSSWORD

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9						10		11		
				12						
13						14				15
16		17						18		
		19								

### Across

- Eternal (9)
- Water barrier (3)
- Precious gem (7)
- Mistake (5)
- One of the senses (5)
- Expert (3)
- Beer mug (5)
- Score (5)
- Very old (7)
- Self (3)
- Stage name (9)

### Down

- Military chaplain (5)
- Compunction (7)
- Survival (9)
- Fifth sign of the zodiac (3)
- Emblem (5)
- Tried (9)
- Physician (7)
- Frighten (5)
- Tempest (5)
- Drinking vessel (3)

## WORLD WIDE CITIES ANAGRAMS

NEARCRAB

EVINCE

NEWPART

ACATCULT

PAIRS

NOVACURVE

AVENGE

RIPETARO

HASTEN

SERIOUSBEAN

Answers on page 23

# GETTING TO GRIPS WITH BEACON

Beacon is the u3a computer system which we adopted two years ago to handle our membership database. It is also designed to be used by our groups.

However, some members have struggled to get to grips with it. The secret is the **MEMBERS PORTAL**. This is *just a password* to get in, but a bit more complicated than your usual passwords. I have had many members email me saying "I can't get into Beacon" - and I have got into their record every time - without exception.

To get to the Members Portal open up the **Southport u3a** website and click on the **Beacon Tab**. Once in this tab, you should click on **Membership Portal**. This will open up a screen asking you to enter your details. To enter, you should know your membership number, your name, post code and email address. It is a bit slow, so have patience!!

**This is where it gets tricky!!** Like any password, if you get it wrong it will not let you in. The Portal is case sensitive. Also, when entering your forename, if you have also given us a shortened version of your name "Tony instead of Anthony" use the shortened version. When entering your Post Code make sure you add the space between, and make sure you add the correct email address (many people have more than one!!). Make sure you enter the email address in lower case.

Groups Membership Beacon Documents

The Portal seems to be sensitive to some computers using autofill. From what I can see those using Microsoft seem to be able to use it ok. If you are Mac based, either on an iPad or iMac, it doesn't seem to like it. So, you must click on each box separately as you enter your info.

If you get any one thing wrong, when you click **"confirm identity"** the screen goes to blank and you have to start again from the beginning. You can try as often as you like.

When you get into Beacon it will give you some options. If you have already renewed your membership it gives you the three options shown. If you have *not renewed* it gives you that as your only option.

## IF YOU WANT TO JOIN A GROUP

Not all groups are on Beacon but for those who are, if you have gone into Beacon to join a Group, click on the **Southport u3a Groups line** and you will go to a list of Groups. Scroll down till you see the one you are interested in and click on it. If it is enabled for joining online you will see one of two messages. Either **Join now** or **join waiting list**. In each case click the **yellow text** and you will be added.

You do not get an acknowledgement but the Group leader gets a message to know you have joined, so they can then contact you. If in doubt, just log out and log back on again to check

If all else fails - contact **Jim Hay** on:- [membership@Southportu3a.org.uk](mailto:membership@Southportu3a.org.uk) or **Peter Ballentyne** on:- [peteru3abeaconadmin@btinternet.com](mailto:peteru3abeaconadmin@btinternet.com)

# LETTER..... .....to the Editor

Dear sir,  
I loved the feature on the Austin Allegro.



My first company car was a brand new Morris Marina. Every time I washed it, which was not very often I got the feeling something was wrong.

I had it for about a year and was given it a good clean. It was the first time I had all four doors open at the same time. The penny dropped I had got a super deluxe car. The car trim was super down one side and deluxe down the other.

At the time I worked in car plants. BMC would only allow BMC cars on site. Ford's were afraid that if you took a Ford on site it might grow extra parts so I could always park near to where I was working.

On the Morris Marina, every time you used the brakes it was a new experience it would always pull one way or the other you never knew which way.

We were supposed to keep the car for sixty thousand miles. Then they said we had to keep it to eighty thousand miles! In the last twenty thousand miles it had a new engine, gearbox, suspension and propshaft; the only original part was the back axle.

On the plus side I would drive it to Germany with three of us, our suitcases and tools and it would cruise at a ton.

From Ron Tate

Sliced bread was invented in 1928.

People in 1927:



A husband notices his wife's hearing is deteriorating and decides to visit her doctor for advice

"I can't speak to my wife directly as she might find it offensive, given our old age" he says to the doc

"There's a simple trick you can try to determine her hearing" explains the doctor. "Simply ask her a question at a distance and if she doesn't hear you, move slightly closer and ask again until she does"

That night, the husband arrives home and sees his wife in the kitchen cooking. He thinks to himself, "What a perfect opportunity to test her hearing"

He stands in the doorway of the kitchen and promptly asks;

"What's for dinner honey"

No answer. He moves closer.

"What's for dinner honey"

Still no answer. He moves even closer.

"What's for dinner honey"

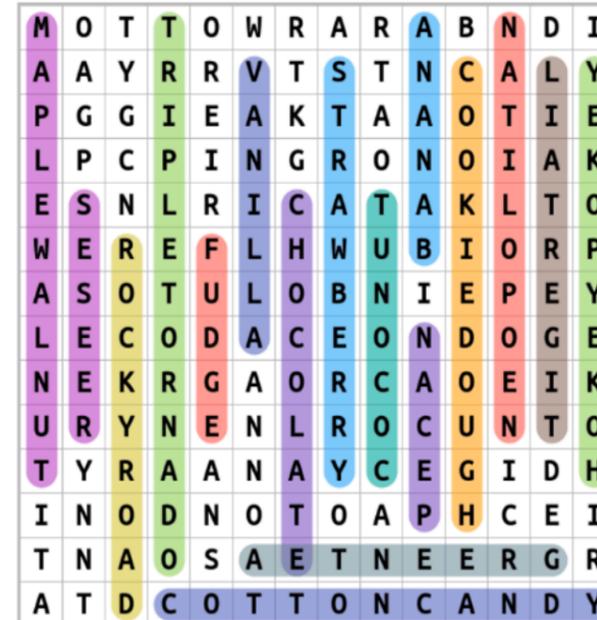
Still his wife doesn't answer. He now sees how serious her problem is. At this point he is standing right next to his wife

"What's for dinner honey"

"FOR THE FOURTH TIME ALBERT - WE ARE HAVING CHICKEN!!"

# PUZZLES PAGE ANSWERS

## WORD SEARCH



## CROSSWORD



© Puzzle Choice

## SUDOKO

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

## SPORTS ANAGRAMS

TABLE TENNIS  
HORSE RACING  
BADMINTON  
TENNIS  
ICE HOCKEY  
GYMNASTICS  
ICE SKATING  
BOWLING  
SAILING

## WORLD WIDE CITIES ANAGRAMS

NEARCRAW	CANBERRA	NOVACURVE	VANCOUVER
EVINCE	VENICE	AVENGE	GENEVA
NEWPART	ANTWERP	RIPETARO	PRETORIA
ACATCULT	CALCUTTA	HASTEN	ATHENS
PAIRS	PARIS	SERIOUSBEAN	BUENOS AIRES

## YOUR COMMITTEE CONTACTS

Chair	Paddy McNeish	
Vice Chair	Sharon Partington	
Secretary & Group Activities Co-ordinator	Phil Watling	
Treasurer	Alan Patmore	
Membership Secretary	Jim Hay	
Social Secretary	Viv Pulman	
Committee Member	Dawn Oldfield	
Newsletter Editor	Ian Homewood	

**AND FINALLY.....**

**.....AND THEN IT IS WINTER**

You know time has a way of moving quickly and catching you unaware of the passing years. It seems like yesterday that I was young, just married, and embarking on my new life with my mate. Yet in a way, it seems like eons ago, and I wonder where all those years went.

Dreams? - I know that I lived them all. I have glimpses of how it was back then and of all my hopes and dreams. But, here it is... the winter of my life, and it catches me by surprise... How did I get here so fast? Where did the years go and where did my youth go? I remember well seeing older people through the years and thinking that those "older people" were years away from me and that winter was so far off that I could not fathom it or imagine fully what it would be like.

Each day now, I find that just getting a shower is a real target for the day! And taking a nap is not a treat anymore... it's mandatory! Cause if I don't on my own free will... I just fall asleep where I sit!

And so... now I enter this new season of my life unprepared for all the aches and pains and the loss of strength and ability to go and do things that I wish I had done but never did!! But, at least I know, that though the winter has come, and I'm not sure how long it will last... this I know, that when it's over on this earth... it's over. A new adventure will begin!

Yes, I have regrets. There are things I wish I hadn't done... things I should have done, but indeed, there are also many things I'm happy to have done. It's all in a lifetime.

So, if you're not in your winter yet... let me remind you, that it will be here faster than you think. So, whatever you would like to accomplish in your life, please do it quickly! Don't put things off too long!! Life goes by quickly. So, do what you can TODAY, as you can never be sure whether this is your winter or not!

You have no promise that you will see all the seasons of your life... so, LIVE FOR TODAY. "Life" is a GIFT to you. The way you live your life is your gift to those who come after. Make it a fantastic one.