



RELAXEZ-VOUS - NEW VENUE & DAY

We will now meet at the Salvation Army in Shakespeare Street, on Thursdays from 10 to 11am (except on u3a meeting days) - followed by the in-house cafe for coffee and chat.

- Do you feel you would like some gentle exercise?
- Would you like to be a little bit more mobile or flexible?
- Do you have some difficulty relaxing?
- Do you want some time to yourself?
- If the answer to these questions is YES, then RELAXEZ-VOUS is right for you!



Relaxez-vous is a gentle exercise class with a combination of chair and floor exercises with some meditation thrown in for good measure. At

the end you can have a refreshment and chat with friends - all for £2 per session!!



Last month 45 members of **Let's Go** took a nostalgic trip to "Powered by Magic" Blackpool and toured the Illuminations.

Before getting to Blackpool they had a stop at Lytham for some urgent Charity Shop visits followed by a visit to the famous "Seniors" Fish & Chip Shop.



Then it was on to Blackpool to wonder at the array of images on show, including, of course, the spectacular Blackpool Tower!



OUR CHRISTMAS MEETING



As we have done for the last few years, the December 2nd Meeting will be a **Showcase** for many of our performing groups. This has always been a popular event and will include **free coffee and mince pies for all** - as well as our next edition of the Quarterly Magazine.



A special treat this year will be our **prize draw for TEN Christmas Hampers**. These have been put together specially for us by local company **Churchtown Deli**. The shop has had three owners, the most recent being Gilly, since 2018. They provide a wide range of locally sourced produce, especially a wide range of local cheeses! In addition they create their own range of home made foods, such as soups, quiches and cakes. For a special occasion they will create a personalised Cheese Tiered Cake. And, of course, they have a wide variety of quality wines!!

Situated in the middle of Churchtown, they also have a full delivery service available - and as we come out of the Covid restrictions will be starting up their popular tasting sessions soon.



SEVEN ORIGINAL STREETS OF LIVERPOOL

In October the Local History Group continued their programme with a walk entitled **"The Seven Original Streets of Liverpool"** with Ann Marshall. We needed to take two groups as there was such a demand for this walk. Ann is an interesting and informative guide and she took us way back in time, when there were fields around the city centre and the Mersey came up as far as the Strand (which is a word meaning beach!) We also looked at the site of Liverpool Castle which is where the Queen Victoria statue now stands. The first group were lucky enough to have a dry day but the second group were not so lucky but they persevered. A Hardy Bunch! We are hoping to do more walks with Ann next year.



learn,
laugh,
live



----- SOUTHPORT BRANCH CONTEMPORARY JAZZ GROUP AT -----

BOULEVARD WEST 7-11 LORD St SOUTHPORT

(close to Travelodge hotel and bus stops 47, 49, X2, 375/385 - free parking on street after 6 pm)

By agreement with owner Bryan Ainscough exclusively for our U3A Jazz Group
Doors 7.30 pm. Music 8 to 10.30 pm with one interval when supper will be served

U3A JAZZ GROUP MONTHLY MONDAY EVENING JAZZ / SUPPER EVENINGS JAN & FEB 2022

Tickets £18 each (includes supper). Maximum 30 Southport U3A group members

Monday 6th JANUARY

BLUES IN THE NIGHT - an evening of Johnny Mercer with

Susan Corcoran (vocals & narrative)
Brian Rennie (tenor saxophone)
Anthony Ormesher (guitar)

Don't miss this one. Here's a few quotes from some famous folk about **John Hendon Mercer**.

The greatest lyricist in the English language.

*Oscar Hammerstein
Mercer was no poet. Shakespeare was a poet.
But Shakespeare was no Johnny Mercer!*

*Sammy Cahn
Anyone who can rhyme 'aurora borealis' with
'red and ruby chalice' is not bad.*

*Harry Nilson
A Johnny Mercer lyric is all the wit you wish you
had and all the love you ever lost.*

Frank Sinatra

Monday 7th FEBRUARY

THE BROWNFIELD - BYRNE TRIO

British Jazz Awards winning trumpeter **Jamie Brownfield** and outstanding saxophonist **Liam Byrne** are joined by guitar virtuoso **Andy Hulme** for a lively evening of what you could call 'Chicago Era' foot tapping swing!

singer, pianist, songwriter, lyricist
Johnny Mercer (1909-1976)



Buy tickets at the Southport U3A Jazz Desk at the monthly meetings or
Phone Geoff Matthews 01704 643835 or

Post-cheques payable 'Southport U3A'
1A Crosby Rd, Birkdale, PR8 4SU + SAE)



Jamie Brownfield & Liam Byrne



Andy Hulme

THE VENUE

A cosy, intimate bar with a great vibe, much enjoyed by clientel and visiting musicians alike.



SUPPER

One pot hot dish served with crusty bread. Always with a vegetarian option

DRINKS

Good selection of continental draft beers, bottled local craft ales, good choice of reasonably priced wines and spirits, soft drinks and tea/coffee available at the bar

BEEF NOODLE SOUP



A - Singapore B - Taiwan
C - Thailand

MEAT PIE



A - Australia B - UK
C - Canada

MOULES FRITES



A - France B - Italy
C - Belgium

POUTINE



A - Ireland B - US
C - Canada

EMPANADA



A - Spain B - Chile
C - Peru

APPLE PIE



A - Mexico B - Scotland
C - US

SAUTÉED REINDEER



A - Norway B - Iceland
C - Finland

CURRYWURST



A - Poland B - Austria
C - Germany

FALAFEL



A - Iran B - India
C - Israel

PIZZA



A - US B - Italy
C - Portugal

KIMCHI



A - Japan B - South Korea
C - China

FISH & CHIPS



A - UK B - Denmark
C - US



APPOINTMENT OF U3A VICE-CHAIR

Sharon Partington is relinquishing her role of Vice Chair, having finished her three-year appointment, in February. We thank her for her commitment and support to the Committee and Chairman. and our good wishes go to her for a very happy future.

In accordance with our Constitution, it is essential that this role be filled as otherwise **Southport u3a must close**. So, this is an urgent plea to members who feel they might be able to contribute by agreeing to be a Trustee and, over the next three years, be familiar with all the necessary knowledge of all the Committee roles. Mentoring will be provided for you in the early days.

For your own part, it would be helpful to have some computer skills, to be able to work as part of a very friendly team, good communication and leadership abilities and on occasion, you might have to deputise for the Chairman. The best thing is that you won't be alone and the Committee would be really grateful for your contribution.

If you would like to have an informal chat and more information, please get in touch with me, Paddy McNeish, Chairman, on 01704 531661.



VACANCY FOR BUSINESS SECRETARY

The person we seek for this vacancy needs to be able to get heavily involved in the practical tasks needed to help run Southport u3a, by keeping the organisation running. You will need to be someone who enjoys dealing with people and be part of a team working together for the benefit of all our members.

Key attributes should be - Efficiency, confidentiality and the ability to communicate clearly. Possession of current IT skills an advantage, as is a sense of humour!

Tasks & responsibilities

- Be a signatory for financial matters
- Provide documentation for meetings and ensuring meetings are quorate
- Deal with correspondence as required
- Operate as the contact for external or National u3a bodies ensuring that updates are relayed to the Committee and/or passed to the membership
- Maintain a current list of Committee members and keep the annual charities commission register up to date.
- Maintain the Policies and Procedures documentation

Committee responsibilities

1. Be aware of the requirements in being a u3a Trustee and adhere to the Code of Conduct and the Data Protection Act.
2. Attend all Committee meetings and be prepared to perform any other tasks at the request of the Committee.
3. Be familiar with the Constitution of Southport u3a.

If you would like to have an informal chat and more information, please get in touch with me, Paddy McNeish, Chairman, on 01704 531661.



If you haven't yet visited the spectacular mural on the exterior of Toad Hall in Ainsdale it's a 'must see'.

horizon as though part of your surroundings. Well it might do if there's a blue sky. Apparently, it's believed to be the largest painting created by a single artist in the UK.

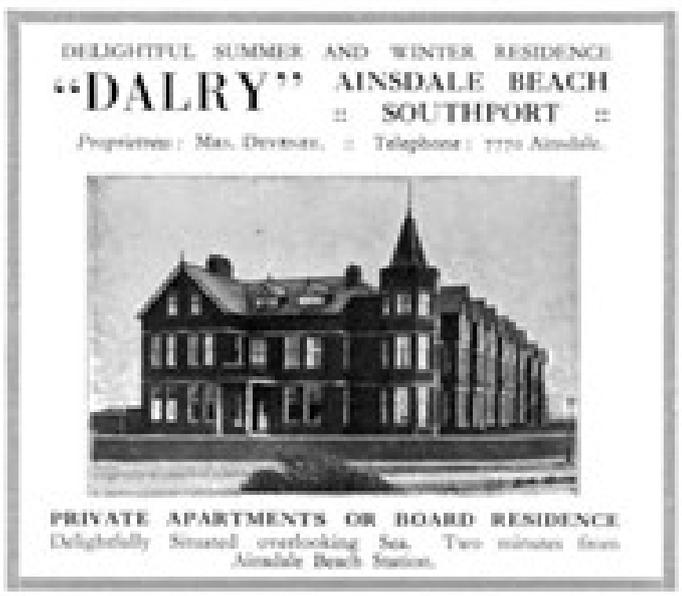
Toad Hall has a checkered history. It was built in the early 1900s, originally to be the start of an Ainsdale-on-Sea Promenade, plans that never materialised.

Initially it was the Marine hotel & six private dwellings. Later it was a boarding house then flats and in the 1970s it became a fashionable nightclub and was renamed Toad Hall – either of Wind in the Willows fame or maybe after our Natterjacks,

By the late 90's it was empty and deserted. In 2014, after a fire, it became a derelict eyesore and was boarded up for safety. It has always been a local landmark and there was public outrage when the mural was first proposed but the Council won.

Pay it a visit to see if they made the right choice!

Diane Fitton



Commissioned by Sefton Council & painted by award winning local Street Artist Paul Curtis it wraps around two walls & depicts the Ainsdale sand dunes & two enormous Sand Lizards.

The detail is brilliant and the perspective around the many windows, doors and porticoes amazing. He used 330 litres of paint, 42 spray cans & it took him 360 hours in all weathers.

The initially obvious design of Toads had to be abandoned as, according to Paul, it just didn't work but the Sand Lizards are marvellous. Bright vibrant colours, elongated shape to match the proportions of Toad Hall & part of the local fauna.

The Marram grass and coastal environment is designed to form an illusion so that when you walk over the dunes, the mural should emerge from the

Santa's Grottos can be found in Wafarers Arcade, Southport Market & Dobbies throughout December. The panto 'Cinderella' opens at the Southport Theatre on the 6th December & 'Goldilocks & the Three Bears' at the Little theatre from the 19th December. In Marble Place there is the UK's first Immersive Digital Christmas Experience & there is a Gingerbread Trail throughout the town with prizes if you can find all the Gingerbread folk.

In Victoria Park there is 'Luminate Southport' an enchanting magical stroll through amazing light instalations.

The 'switch on' for the Christmas illuminations in Lord Street is on the 26th of November. There will be Christmas Markets & Continental Markets in Chapel Street & The Gelder Rose have a 'Christmas Jumper' event & a Family Christmas Quiz day.

Further afield at Farmer Teds in Ormskirk ther is a 'Farmer Christmas Walking Adventure' & Martin Mere has a 'Sail to Santa with the Elf Academy'.

So Ho Ho Ho there's lots to do – Merry Christmas everyone.



On Wednesday 10th November 2021 the **Coach Trip Group** had an interesting day out in Blackpool and a visit to Lytham with some members enjoying some happy memories of the Winter Gardens. In the morning we had a tour of the Winter Gardens. During which time we explored the Floral Hall, the Opera House (the stage being set up for a concert that evening by the 1980s rock band Deacon Blue), the Empress Ballroom (famous for its



sprung dance floor and yearly International dance competitions), the original Pavilion Theatre when the Winter Gardens were first opened and finally the Spanish Hall with its beautiful decor which is designed to look like an Andalusian village and now hosts conferences and exhibitions).

The guide, Steve Mercer, was excellent at explaining how the Winter Gardens were first developed, how it has expanded and modernised during the twentieth century. In addition, he outlined its challenges for the future. In the afternoon we then had free time to explore Lytham at our own pace.

We hope to arrange a further coach trip in the new year, with Steve Mercer, to explore some further landmarks in Blackpool.



RIVER OF LIGHT

Two of our groups, Let's Go and Photo 1, visited the superb display in Liverpool this month. Here are some of their photos



It may be coming into Winter but our Walking Groups carry on regardless of the weather.



Short Walks 1 led by Mary & Ilush have developed a bit of a reputation for picking clear skies and sunshine. However they came a cropper this month on a walk from Waterloo to Hightown - but still soldiered on in the rain!!

Alan Jones led **Walking Group 4** on a walk from Grassington to Albert Dock with better results.

"We all collected on the Mersey rail train after 0930 at various stations, alighted at Cressington station and walked through the Grassendale private village down to the water front. Then weaving the way back to Otterspool promenade. Then along the prom and into the Festival gardens for lunch, after lunch along the prom to The Albert Dock for Coffee, but some needed to rush to John Lewis! A great day was had by all 15 walkers with plenty of sunshine and blue skies and NO RAIN."



Walking Group 4 were off again on another of their weekly walks on 8th Nov, which saw 17 members walking from the Anderton Boat Lift near Northwich.

An excellent fairly flat circular walk of just under 8 miles via the Anderton Nature Park,



which is by the River Weaver, past The Lion Salt Works Museum. Then lunch in the Church grounds of the very pretty village of

Great Budworth, and on toward Budworth Mere and Marbury Country Park, where we also enjoyed the spectacular Avenue of Lime Trees which are a real treat at this time of year - laying down a carpet of fallen leaves for us to walk through.

Finally it was back to the car park along the Trent & Mersey Canal.

Unfortunately the Boat Lift Cafe was closed on Mondays so we had our post walk Cafe Stop at the very interesting and well stocked Hollies Farm shop at Lower



DOCTORS SURGERY



"Please hold while we bring you the complete works of Johann Sebastian Bach."

One of the big surprises of last year's Strictly (including sceptical me) was the terrific performances of the partnership between Bill Bailey and professional Oti Mabuse. They belied the belief that older men cannot learn to dance. If you have not watched his one man concert on Youtube, you should.



*Here, he takes over **Graham Norton Show** and gives a performance on the Mandolin. Click **HERE** to watch it*



MINI BREAK PLANNED

Let's Go are off on a walking mini break with Involved Holidays to the Gower Peninsular. This is a 3-night walking break starting on 27th May staying at the Mercure Hotel in Swansea on a half board basis. This is a good hotel and has a health club. Transport to the walks will be provided. Walks will be guided around 6 to 7 miles. The cost is £325 per person based on two sharing. For singles a £75 supplement will apply. We may be able to secure extra rooms, especially doubles and twins. **YOU MUST BE ABLE TO WALK 7 MILES** in the open countryside.

The trip is car sharing (fuel contributions will apply) We will hopefully add an **OPTIONAL** stay at Bewdley on the way. If you wish to join us, please read the full description of the break via the link below. To join or for further information, please contact me by email letsgosouthportu3a@gmail.com
Jacky Carter
<https://involvedholidays.com/tour/walking-the-gower-peninsula/>

OYCZ GO POTTY!!

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laugh,
live



Some photos from the first session of making a pottery Christmas tree. This was at Fishfingers Creative Clay in Kew Road Birkdale in November

We started off with flat sheets of clay which we moulded around a cone then proceeded to cut out various shapes to decorate the tree. Holes of different shapes were cut through the clay so that a night light could be inserted. We also decorated the base.



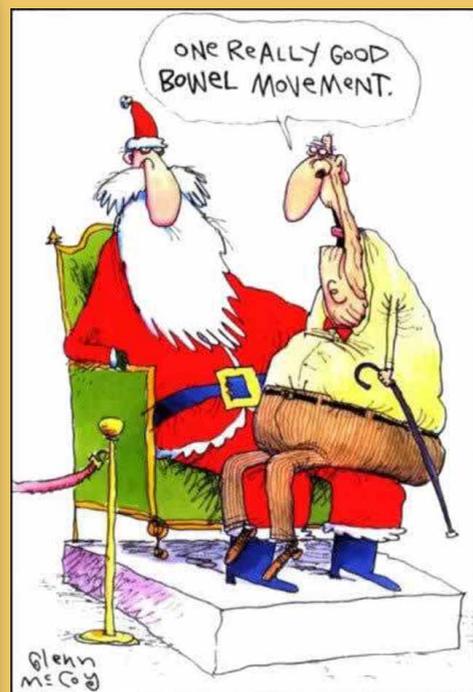
These trees were then got ready by Lesley Fisher, the potter, for first firing in the kiln. We are due to return later this month to glaze the trees with colour. The finished trees will then be fired again. After we had made the trees we adjourned next door where Lesley had cooked a two course meal of extra large lasagne with salad, garlic bread and chips. This was followed by extra large portions of sticky toffee pudding with cream or ice cream, both with lashings of hot sticky toffee sauce. We were over full!!!!



We are all looking forward to the second session with even more lasagne and pudding!!

Making Christmas Special

Jackie Iddon gave **The Gardening Group** a delightful & informative talk on making Christmas floral arrangements. She showed us how to make a gorgeous Christmas wreath for the door, a beautiful arrangement for a table or mantelpiece & some lovely festive pots of plants for outside. All made from scratch while she entertained us with amusing anecdotes about her experiences as a floral art demonstrator & life running the garden centre & nursery at Hazelwood. It was a thoroughly enjoyable talk & hopefully lots of enthusiastic members will be making their own Christmas wreaths & trying to source some Blue Spruce.



ANSWERS

Beef Noodle Soup - Taiwan

Meat Pie - Australia

Moules Frites - Belgium

Poutine - Canada

Empanada - Chile

Apple Pie - US

Sauteed Reindeer - Finland

Currywurst - Germany

Falafel - Isreal

Pizza - Italy

Kimchi - South Korea

Fish & Chips - UK

White Roses and Clematis

Water droplets speckle double glazing, weaving waterways down glacial glass in gravatourial acquiescence.

Visibility is not totally obscured beyond the conservatory wrap-around windows. Cumulus clouds can be seen drifting with threatening presence.

Not satisfied with earlier torrential waterfalls the rain eases off to invite people to venture out and then out of the grey another waterlanche.

Clematis, hydrangeas and white roses droop into passive postures soaked into survival mode patiently waiting for dryer times.

This is as it is now but not as it will be. Weather patterns are changing discernibly in fact, not just in forecast and fiction.

Business interests pay little heed to climate change. Greedily with eyes closed to the Future they manipulate and destroy, deaf to the warnings.

Icebergs melt, rivers flood, famine disease and unrest spread unrestrained. It has gone beyond changeable or undoable, gone beyond the last chance.

Our grandchildren will never forgive our negligence. Will not accept our pleas for clemency for our oversight and for not exercising due diligence. **Joe Forshaw**

A man asked his wife what she would like for her 40th Birthday

“I’d love to be six again” she replied

On the morning of her birthday, he got up bright and early and off they went to a local theme park

What a day! He put her on every ride in the park: The Death Slide, The Screaming Loop, The Wall of Fear, everything there was!

Five hours later she staggered out of the theme park, her head reeling and her stomach upside down

Right to a McDonald’s they went, where her husband ordered her a Happy Meal along with extra fries and a chocolate milk shake

Then, it was off to a movie - the latest Disney and what a fabulous adventure!

Finally, she wobbled home with her husband and collapsed into bed

He leaned over and lovingly asked “Well, dear what was it like being six again?”

Wearily she raised her head, and said:

“You idiot, I meant my dress size.”

The Moral of this Story is:

When a woman speaks and a man is actually listening, he will still get it wrong!!