

U3A RENEWALS IN FULL SWING

Yes, it's that time of year again. The time when the Postman stops smiling at me and instead stuffs large bunches of envelopes through the door with venom.



An average day's post

It is time we all renewed our annual membership to our wonderful organisation. At only £10 for the year it must be the best value in town!!

As I write this, over 600 of you have already renewed. That is over 40% of the membership. Over half of this number have renewed on-line by Paypal, which is a great help to me and keeps our local postie happy.

Remember you have three ways to renew your membership:

- 1 You can send me your renewal in the post with a cheque or cash.
- 2 You can renew at either the Feb and March meetings
- 3 You can renew on line by Paypal or credit card

If you are renewing at the monthly meetings there will be special tables along the side of the hall manned by volunteers just waiting to take your details and money in return for a brand new shiny membership card.

If you would like to renew online, you can find all the information about how to do so, together with a link to the Beacon Members Portal, [on our website](#).

SO, IF YOU HAVEN'T RENEWED YET - TIME TO GET YOUR SKATES ON. WITHOUT YOUR NICE NEW GREEN MEMBERSHIP CARD, GROUP LEADERS WILL START TO REFUSE YOU ENTRY TO YOUR FAVOURITE GROUPS!!

Jim Hay - membership@southportu3a.org.uk

Some of Cynthia Robertshaw's jewellery group have been concentrating on bracelets recently.

In her Aladdin's Cave – aka the front room – there are countless patterns, beads and fixings, and this illustration is a tiny sample of the sort of bracelets for all occasions that are made week by week. Sometimes it takes longer to choose the materials than to make the item, and every selection is accompanied by plenty of chat and rather a lot of cake.

Everyone's welcome, so if you're an experienced 'beader' or complete novice, [do get in touch](#) and give the jewellery set a try.



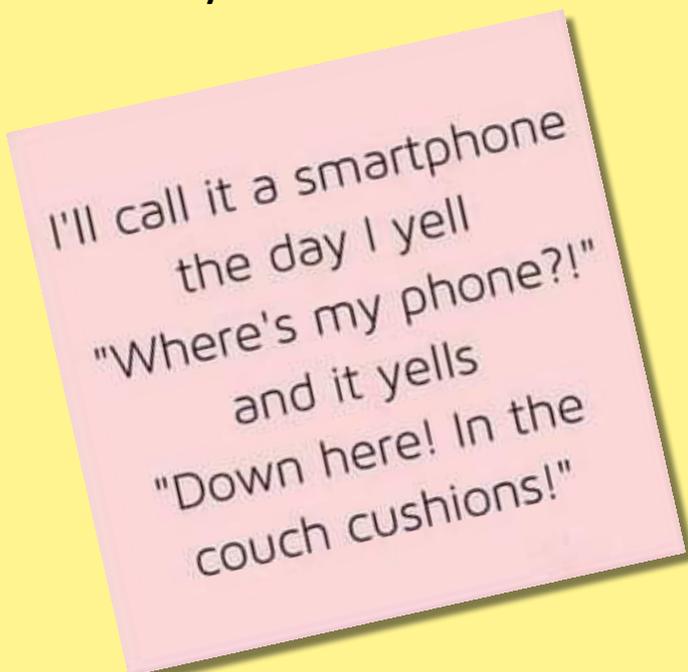
LOCAL HISTORY CHRISTMAS

Our Local History group enjoyed (endured) a rather soggy trip to Liverpool, but were later rewarded with an excellent meal. The pictures are below and you can take part in their quiz on subsequent pages.



THE 2021 LOCAL HISTORY CHRISTMAS QUIZ.

1. What were the original names of these pubs in Churchtown? A) Hesketh Arms, B) Bold Arms
2. What was the name of the hotel built by William Sutton, who is said to be the founder of Southport?
3. Great Britain's first lifeboat station was built in 1776.....where was it situated?
4. Birkdale had a windmill. Where was it situated?
5. In which year was the newspaper "Southport Visiter" first published?
6. A famous feature of Southport was opened in 1859 and cost £12000. What was it?
7. 14 members of Southport Lifeboat lost their lives trying to save the crew of a German ship on 9th December 1888. What was the name of the ship?
8. In 1901 two brothers from Leigh, Lancashire opened a small car manufacturing business in Southport. What was the brand name of the car they made?
9. Southport Pier was opened in 1860. It is currently the second longest pier in the UK. Where is the longest pier?
10. The American Consul for Liverpool stayed in Southport in the 1850's. What was his name?
11. Which King and Queen opened Kings Gardens in 1913?
12. Which (now demolished) Hotel was used by the American Eighth Army Airforce as a recuperation centre in the Second World War?
13. What was the name of the sweet Manufacturer who operated from Virginia Street up to 2007?
14. In which year did Ocean Plaza Retail Park open?

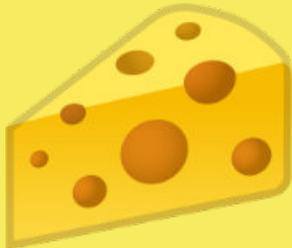




FOOD AND DRINK QUIZ



- 1 The French towns of Epernay and Reims are the centre for which wine?
- 2 Which Danish cheese was invented in the early 19th century in a competition organised by the King?
- 3 From which French wine region does the wine Chablis come from?
- 4 Where does the smelly cheese Limberger originate?
- 5 Which red grape variety is South Africa's signature type?



- 6 In which Mediterranean country did cheese originate?
- 7 What type of wine is generally used to make Sangria?
- 8 What does Spumante on an Italian wine label indicate?

- 9 Which French soft cheese is nicknamed the 'Queen of Cheese'?
- 10 In which country does the wine Vinho Verde originate?



- 11 What is the name of a Spanish wine shop or cellar?
- 12 In which country are the wine producing areas of Hunter Valley and Barossa?
- 13 Which cheese is known as the King of English cheeses?
- 14 The Mauritanian cheese, Caravane is made from milk from which animal?
- 15 At what point of a meal is Sauternes wine generally served?
- 16 What cheese is generally used as a pizza topping?



- 17 What is the most popular Spanish wine?
- 18 In which country is the blue-veined cheese Gorgonzola produced?
- 19 Which cheese is the most popular in the UK?
- 20 Of which fortified wine are Fino and Olorosso both varieties?

Festive Foto Gallery

Our groups have been busy celebrating Christmas and sharing their photos of the occasion. Here are a couple of pages to enjoy.







On Tuesday 29th March we are kick-starting our 2022 coach trip season with a visit to Lyme Park.

The [Lyme Park Estate](#) is located on the edge of the Peak District and consists of a mansion, formal garden and 1,400 acres of historic parkland including a deer park.

Lyme Park was used as Mr. Darcy's home, Pemberley, in BBC's version of Jane Austen's *Pride and Prejudice*.

The estate is owned by the National Trust and our visit will include admission to the house (self guided), gardens and the whole of the estate. There are numerous walks available on the estate including up to the 'tower' on a hill (known as The Cage) with some amazing views overlooking the estate and beyond.

In terms of accessibility the group booking form states "that Lyme park is a hilly location and there are a number of flights of steps in the garden. The parkland has a number of short flat footpaths, most however involve changes of elevation. In addition there are cobbles in various locations".

The coach will depart from Southport at 10.00am and will return at approximately 5.30pm.. (Times to be confirmed)

The cost will be £18.00 per person and this will include coach travel, tip for the driver and entrance fees to the house, garden and the whole of the estate.

For National Trust members there is no charge for the entrance fee so it will be the the cost of the coach only at £10.00 per person. It will be necessary to show membership cards on the day.

You can book your place in the usual way via [Beacon](#).

Once you have booked your place please send a cheque made payable to 'Southport U3A' to Derek Kershaw (write the date of your visit, name/s and membership number/s on the reverse side of the cheque) . If you do not have Derek's address please contact him via the [Coach Trips group page](#).

Alternatively, you may pay at the U3A meeting at Christ Church on 3rd February 2022.



Short Walks 1 enjoyed a cold but beautiful day for their circular walk through the sand dunes and in the pine woods around Ainsdale - taking our lives in our hands by crossing the coast road three times. Evidence of the recent storm damage was very visible as shown by our photo taken in front of some of the evidence. Ilush and Mary have acquired a reputation for getting lost but on this occasion the walk was led by Steve Birchall so all was well.



Quiz



Tuesday 15th March 2022
 At:- Fleetwood Hesketh Club
 Fylde Road
 Southport
 PR9 9XH



Arrive 7pm
 for 7.30pm start



Includes:- Hotpot Supper & Raffle

Cash Prizes

Tickets £9
 from Neil Mc Millan at the monthly meeting
 Or Tel. 07802516488

Butterflies and Hurricanes

Can a butterfly cause a hurricane?
Think on this, think on this:

A chance arrow from the sky
in a battle for an islands soil
piercing a king in the eye
thus ending a battle royal.

Tea bags in a harbour
That started a civil war
Cries that we won't labour
and pay taxation any more.

A statue from a bankrupt nation
that brought down a monarchy.
A republic built on a notion
of fraternity that lead to anarchy.

A gun shot that killed 10 million
and then 10 million more.
Nations fighting for dominion
when Europe went to war.

The Chaos Theory is speculative, as you know
but just be careful what you say and do.
Remember that a gun shot in Sarajevo
could have been the death of you.

Joe Forshaw 2017

It doesn't really matter whether you
are religious, or if you think this is
a set up. Just enjoy the humour.

Click [HERE](#) to watch the short video.



Here is another video for you.
This time no humour, just some
incredible technology.

If this gets fully developed the next
lockdown may not be as difficult to
cope with. Click [HERE](#) for the video.

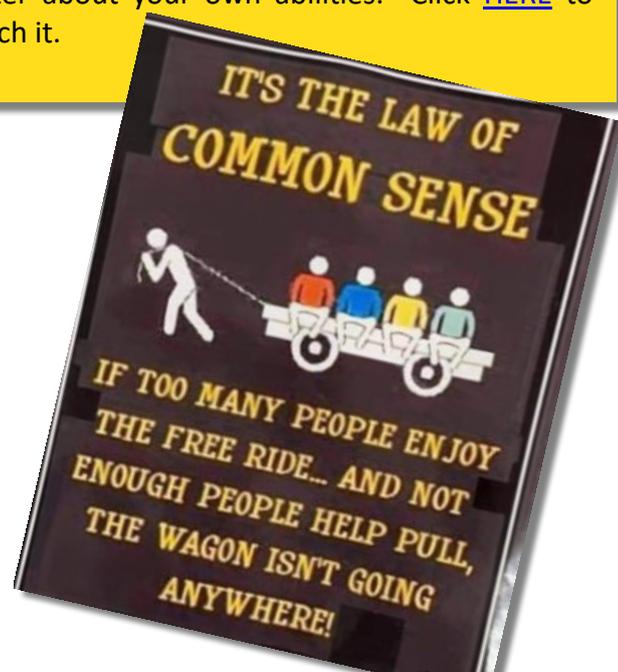
If at first you don't
succeed...

learn,
laugh,
live



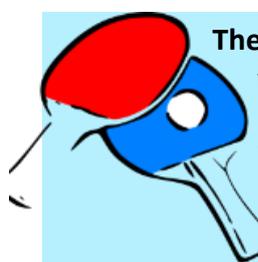
Many of you
will be familiar with the
name Danny MacAskill. He is a
champion free rider, whose videos
* * have been in our
newsletters before.

This particular video may make you feel a little
better about your own abilities. Click [HERE](#) to
watch it.



If you are a Southport u3a member and a
member of Hillside Golf Club, can you
please [email Viv Pullman](#) with
regard to the possible booking
of the function room.

Thanks



The Table Tennis 1 group have space
for new members.

Table Tennis 1 is an intermediate
level group and mostly play
doubles. The sessions take place
at the YMCA in Hoghton Street on
Thursday afternoons from 2.00 – 4.00. They are a
friendly group and have a short coffee break
during the afternoon, for a chat.

The cost is £2.50 per session. If you would like to
join, register your interest on [Beacon](#) or contact
the group leader via their [group page](#).



January Gardening Group Meeting

This was the first meeting with the new committee and happily all went well.

We had a good turnout of over sixty folk and an excellent talk by Diane Harrison of Aventura Nurseries, on Spring colour in the garden.

She brought a huge array of beautiful plants that would give colour and interest to a January Garden.

We were introduced to a wide range of evergreen plants chosen for architectural interest, pretty leaves or simply fragrance and sometimes all three qualities. There was also a nice mixture of early spring flowering plants and bulbs.



It was an inspiring and informative talk that had us all queuing up at the end to buy her lovely plants.

We were delighted to welcome quite a number of new members to our group and we hope they will return in February when the topic is Roses and their Spring pruning.

think even those people who don't like flying probably like watching flying displays.

learn,
laugh,
live

The Red Arrows are internationally famous, but the Swiss F/A-18 Hornet Display Team are no slouches. Click [HERE](#) to watch the video.

If you just like planes full stop, some of these paint jobs may appeal.





SOUTHPORT U3A COACH TRIPS - SHORT BREAK 4 DAYS/3 NIGHTS

We are currently exploring the possibility of running a short break, possible towards the end of September 2022. (19th to 22nd September 2022??) (Monday to Thursday)

This will include a visit to Bletchley Park, Blenheim Palace and the National Arboretum. (See details below) It is currently an itinerary in the G-Line brochure and it is proposed to organise this break similar to this. The cost in the brochure is £395 per person which includes coach travel, hotel accommodation with breakfast and dinner and the excursions as outlined.

Please note that the costing for our break will be based on the numbers of passengers and the number of double and single rooms required. (Single supplements may apply)

We have spoken to G-Line and if we are interested they will arrange and run a bespoke package for us.

If you are interested then let us know by registering your interest on [Beacon](#) or by [contacting us via email](#).

Please note this is not a commitment at this stage.

Derek & Anne Kershaw

Further details on the excursions can be seen below:

Bletchley Park - The excursion takes us to the home of the 'Codebreakers'. See the world's largest display of Enigma machines and the 'unbreakable' cipher machine. Learn of spy stories, take the Japanese challenge and discover the Home Front, the Churchill Exhibition, and Wartime Mini Cinema. Our visit also includes a light lunch in a former Naval Intelligence Codebreaking Hut.

Blenheim Palace - The visit to the birthplace of Sir Winston Churchill, the home of the Duke of Marlborough. The Palace boasts stunning architecture, priceless works of art and the magnificent 'Capability' Brown formal gardens.

National Memorial Arboretum - The National Memorial Arboretum, a place of remembrance to recognize the service and sacrifice of our Armed Forces. On arrival we are joined by a member of the team for an introductory talk and then join in the 'Act of Remembrance', honouring our fallen.

Jobs in the Garden for February

Prune late-summer flowering clematis, cutting stems back to healthy buds about 30cm from the base.

Divide congested clumps of herbaceous perennials and grasses to make vigorous new plants for free.

Cut back wisteria side shoots to three buds from the base, to encourage abundant flowers in spring.

Trim back ivy, Virginia creeper and other climbers if they have outgrown their space, before birds start nesting.



Last chance to plant bare root roses. Sprinkle slow-release fertiliser around the base of roses and other flowering shrubs.

Pot up containers with hardy spring bedding, such as primroses, wallflowers and forget-me-nots mixed with daffodils and hyacinths.

Sow tender annuals in a heated propagator or use a heat mat under covered seed trays.

Transplant deciduous shrubs growing in the wrong place, while they are dormant.

Cut down deciduous ornamental grasses left standing over winter before fresh shoots appear.

Diane Fitton



FOOD AND DRINK QUIZ



- | | | |
|---------------------|--------------------------|-------------------------------|
| 1. Champagne | 8. Sparkling wine | 15. The dessert course |
| 2. Samso | 9. Brie | 16. Mozzarella |
| 3. Burgundy | 10. Portugal | 17. Rioja |
| 4. Belgium | 11. Bodega | 18. Italian |
| 5. Pinotage | 12. Australia | 19. Cheddar |
| 6. Cyprus | 13. Stilton | 20. Sherry |
| 7. Red wine | 14. Camel | |

THE 2021 LOCAL HISTORY CHRISTMAS QUIZ.

ANSWERS

- 1 a The Black Bull / b The Griffin (1 point for each correct answer here)
- 2 South Port Hotel
- 3 Formby
- 4 Mosley St Birkdale
- 5 1844
- 6 Hesketh Park.
- 7 The Mexico
- 8 The Vulcan
- 9 Southend
- 10 Nathaniel Hawthorne
- 11 King George V and Queen Mary
- 12 The Palace Hotel Birkdale
- 13 Leaf UK closed in 2006. They originally made Holland Toffee and later Chewitts
- 14 2005.

The Southport u3a 'Outside Your Comfort Zone' group have a number of events planned, but which can't go ahead without sufficient numbers.

These include:

- Chocolate making at chocolate whirled with an Easter/ Spring theme
- Afternoon canal cruise either from Riley Green or Burscough
- Honister slate mine museum with tour underground

If you are interested contact Brian via the [group page](#).

