



Fancy a go at playing Racquetball?? This is a bit like Squash, but the ball is bigger and softer and the racquets are bigger too - so it is a bit slower and less energetic. Ideal for those in their Third Age, maybe??

A new group has started at the S&B Sports club on Wednesday mornings. Bats and balls are provided to let you get started.

If you are interested, please contact David Holmes through the u3a website

How about having a go at joining the **Discussion Group**? They meet twice a month at Birkdale Community Library where they have relaxed and friendly discussions on a whole range of topics. They currently have vacancies for a few members. So if you are interested, please contact GL, Barbara Hume through the u3a website



Want to try something new - **now is your chance.**

Since **Pickleball** started in the summer it has proved so popular we have had to set up a new group. This group meets at The Dunes Fridays 2-4pm cost £3. Equipment can be provided for those that want to 'try before you buy'. Don't

miss this opportunity - sign up today either using Beacon or by contacting the group leaders Babs Davies or Jane Wallis on the website



WATCH OUT NEXT MONTH FOR NOTICE OF THE SOUTHPORT U3A AGM IN FEB.



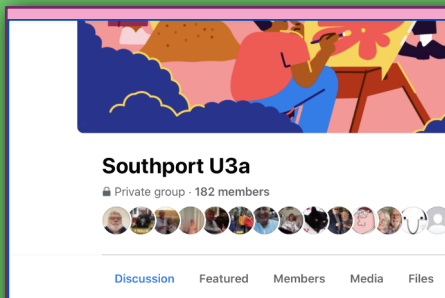
YOU ARE INVITED TO VOTE IN YOUR COMMITTEE - OR TO VOLUNTEER YOURSELF, OR SOMEONE ELSE TO JOIN IT!!

NOTICES WILL BE ARRIVING SHORTLY AT YOUR DOOR OR ON YOUR SCREEN

French 3 Group had a very nice early Christmas meal at Bistro Vérité in Birkdale.



Don't forget to send in your pictures from your Group Christmas meals if you want them published in the next edition of the u3a Newsletter



Have you signed up for the "Southport u3a Facebook" site yet??

This is a great way of keeping in touch with what

your fellow members are up to - and getting in touch with them.

Lots of our members are on this site, so if you wish to sign up just search for "Southport u3a" on your Facebook page

U3A CHRISTMAS MEET ROCKS CHRISTCHURCH

learn,
laugh,
live

Yes, the hour of free coffee, free mince pies, free hampers . . . and . . . most importantly, the opportunity to have our performing groups entertain us, led to the biggest attendance of the year. Over 500 crowded into Christchurch for our Christmas extravaganza featuring the ukulele group, the choir, the drama group and the guitar group - followed by the raffle for the ten hampers on offer displayed by our lovely fairy, Denise, and her reindeer helpers Lisa and Di.



Some of our great group enjoying their first class nibbles and 6 quality French red wines at our October meeting with a decidedly French theme. Of course, one had to dress for the occasion!!



The November meeting at Season Southport on King St proved to be equally successful with a Cowboys and Indians theme. This little cafe bar is a great place to meet up. Music on from 6pm. Exceptionally clean and friendly, the owner Michelle makes everyone welcome. Come in and try it sometime!



We shall be holding our Christmas meeting (get your Christmas Jumpers on folks!) on **Wednesday 14th December** at Season Southport Cafe Bar at 14-16 King Street Southport at 7pm. There will be a variety of 6 Red Wines - plus some great cheeses, charcuterie, chutneys etc.

The meetings are great opportunities to make new friends whilst enjoying a variety of red wines in a lovely, clean and cosy venue. The cost is £20 per head payable by cash or card on the night - but to do that you must have booked first!!

If you are not a member of this group yet and you wish to join please do so by emailing the group leader Chris Latham - at gclatham@hotmail.com with your name and membership number.



IT'S THE CHRISTMAS QUIZ

- 1 What is the name of Macaulay Culkin's character in Home Alone?
- 2 Which country gives Britain a Christmas tree each year as a thank you for support during World War II?
- 3 What name is given to mini sausages wrapped in bacon?
- 4 Stollen is the traditional fruit cake of which country?
- 5 What collective had a hit in 1984 with Do They Know It's Christmas?
- 6 What colour are the berries on mistletoe?
- 7 On the seventh day of Christmas, what does my true love give to me?
- 8 What's the next line in this Christmas song: Last Christmas, I gave you my heart...
- 9 What do they call mulled wine in Germany?
- 10 Which modern day Canadian crooner is associated with Christmas?
- 11 **DECIPHER THESE CHRISTMAS ANAGRAMS**

- A DISPATCH DRUMS GIN
- B BLESSING KIT PAN
- C BADGE RINGER
- D KING SCOT

NAME THE CHRISTMAS FILM

A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H



LOCAL HISTORY VISIT BOOTLE TOWN HALL

The U3A Local History group spent a morning visiting Bootle Town Hall. Our guide for the visit was The Mayor of Sefton, Cllr Clare Louise Carragher who very kindly gave us some of her time in a busy schedule.

She set the scene by telling us the Town Hall was opened on 10th April 1882 in a Renaissance style after a public competition. During the Second World War it suffered blast damage. There was concentrated bombing which rendered 20,000 people homeless. 1,000 were killed and 74% of Bootle's houses were badly damaged. The clock on display in the foyer stopped at the time a bomb struck Bedford Road School during the Second World War.



We were shown The Council Chamber which used to be circular in shape but was changed and lengthened and is now similar to the chamber of the House of Commons.

The Mayor's chair is made of oak and has very fine deep carving on its panels. Seating includes Councillors' benches plus accommodation for the Chief Officers, the press and the general public.



Plaques of various naval ships which have visited the borough are displayed on the Western wall of the Council Chamber. The mayoress took us into the committee Room used for meetings of important Committees of the Council. It housed some fine specimens of porcelain and silverware.

We were shown a really interesting clock which is the largest piece of Civic Silver and was presented to Sir Ernest Royden the then M P of Bootle in 1922. Some years later it was given to Bootle Council to be included as part of their Civic Silver.



We were also shown three Mayoral Chains and we had to guess which one was most valuable. Yes, the chain with the diamonds, sapphires and rubies. As we were leaving these were going safely back in the safe.

Sylvia enjoyed being the Mayor for a moment, as she dressed in a robe that was previously used by the Mayor.



The house was in darkness
As we turned from the street
Through the sandstone gates
And onto the gravelled drive

The wipers swept
noiselessly
And the headlights cut the gloom
And the worsening drizzle
To illuminate double porch doors

Her excited voice interrupted
The December melancholy
'They've flowered! They've flowered!'
I followed her pointing finger

And there amongst the shadowy pots
Either side of the house steps
Two of her plants
Had come into bloom

'That's a Winter Jasmine on the left
Look at the star-shaped yellow flowers.' She
said.
'And the creamy flowers on the right are a
Clematis.
It's nickname is Jingle Bells.'

She was almost beside herself
'Winter blooming plants!
A bright yellow star and jingle bells!
What a lovely present!'

Can we get out of the car?' I said.
'Maybe take in the shopping?
Then we could have a drink
And celebrate our flowering Christmas gifts.'

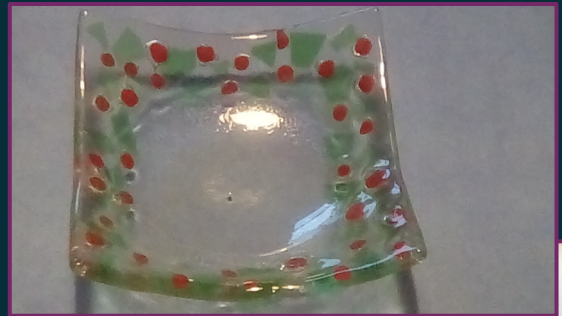
She laughed,
'Jingle Bells,
Jingle Bells,
Jingle all the way.
Oh what fun it is to be
A gardener every day.
Ho!!!'

'Let's just take the shopping in,' I
said.

'Please.'



OYCZ decended on Jan Langans glass studio in November and had a great day creating their own glass ornaments



OYCZ has proved to be great way of members trying out things they would never otherwise have had a chance to try. Brian is looking for your ideas for things you would like to tackle next year. So, if you want to try something new - get in touch with Brian through the website with your ideas



Coach trip to Towneley Hall and Boundary Mill

learn,
laugh,
live

In November the Coach Trip Group had an interesting visit to Towneley Hall in Burnley followed by some retail therapy at Boundary Mill.

At Towneley Hall we had some excellent guides who outlined the history of the house, the art gallery and the museum which is located within 400 acres of beautiful parkland. The autumn colours of the trees within the parkland were a magnificent sight.

The Hall, which dates back to the 14th Century, contains fine period rooms decorated with oil paintings and sculptures. We explored secret passages and hidden gems behind secret wall panelling. The kitchen area was particularly interesting with its range of ovens and utensils.

The art gallery boasts a spectacular collection of oil paintings including works by Sir Lawrence Alma Tadema, John William Waterhouse and Johan Zoffany.

One of the most precious items in the museum was the medieval Whalley Abbey Vestments which were given to the Towneley Family at the time of the dissolution of the monasteries so they would be kept safe. Dating from the Middle Ages they are sewn in a style of ecclesiastical embroidery.



A few select OYCZ members went to the Suay Pan Asian Fusion Restaurant in Formby. We arrived at 12.30pm and were greeted by the Chef who was going to help us prepare, cook and then eat a 3 course Asian lunch.

We started with preparing the ice cream as this had to go back into the freezer until needed. This consisted of a scoop of ice cream wrapped in sliced white bread, dipped in Panko Breadcrumbs and milk. Then returned to the freezer.

Next, we prepared the ingredients for Tom Yam Goong (sour & spice prawn soup). Once cooked we sat down and ate this before we prepared the main course of Keang Keaw Wan Kai (Malaysian Chicken Curry). For this we had to mix together all the ingredients for the Malaysian Curry Paste. This paste was put into the wok with hot oil, the chicken was added with the rest of the ingredients. Once cooked we sat down to eat!

Our ice cream was brought out of the freezer and deep fried before toppings were added. We sat down once again and finished our dessert.

We were then presented with a goody bag to take home. Some of us had been crafty and reserved some of the soup and main course to take home!!





IT'S THE CHRISTMAS QUIZ ANSWERS

- 1 Kevin
- 2 Norway
- 3 Pigs in Blankets
- 4 Germany
- 5 Band Aid
- 6 White
- 7 Swans a-swimming
- 8 But the very next day you gave it away
- 9 Gluhwein
- 10 Michael Buble

- 11a CHRISTMAS PUDDING
- 11b PIGS IN BLANKETS
- 11c GINGERBREAD
- 11d STOCKING

CHRISTMAS MOVIE ANSWERS

- A Home Alone
- B White Christmas
- C The Night Before Christmas
- D A Muppet Christmas Carol
- E It's a Wonderful Life
- F Love Actually
- G Miracle on 34th Street
- H Elf

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY VACANCY

(as from February, 2024)

Jim Hay will have completed six very hard-working but rewarding years in February 2024 and, under our constitution rules, will not be standing for re-election. However, he has very kindly offered to take on an Assistant in 2023 in order to make the transition as smooth as possible for the benefit of all our members.

This position is one of the most important tasks on our very pro-active and forward-looking Committee. The successful candidate will be the first point of contact between new members and Southport u3a, so a warm personality, a good sense of humour and the ability to empathise and deal with the general public is essential.

You won't be starting from scratch as there is already an excellent system in place and you will have the support of the Committee and a long handover from Jim.

Some basic aspects of the job are:

1. You will be responsible for providing information to all our members using excellent administrative and database knowledge.
2. You will maintain accurate membership records in the desired format.
3. You will produce leaflets, brochures and joining packs for new members.
4. You will co-ordinate open days or attendance at public events to raise public awareness of u3a and attract new members.
5. You will liaise with the Treasurer over financial aspects of membership
6. You will deal with income accrued from membership fees.

If you think you could manage some or all of the above, we would love to hear from you. Please contact Paddy McNeish, Chair, on paddyclinch@yahoo.co.uk