

Welcome to your February Southport u3a newsletter. Hopefully you have had a good month and are starting to see the early signs of Spring breaking through.

During February, we launched the 'Spring Into Action' initiative, more of that later on. The AGM went very smoothly and can be put aside for another year. Membership renewals were due at the start of the month and it was very satisfying to see that around half of you chose to renew online via our new membership system. On top of that, more than half of event attendance fees were paid online.

Simple Membership has been in operation for close to three months now. Now that renewals are out of the way it is time to get some feedback and, later in this newsletter, we will tell you how you can do that.

Enjoy the newsletter but, first, an important message.



**LADIES!
GIVE US YOUR
SUPPORT**

**SOUTHPORT U3A
SUPPORTING BREAST
CANCER**

**Do you have you any pre loved
bras lurking in your drawers.
They can be reused - please
don't throw them away**

**BRING YOUR UNWANTED
BRAS, ANY CONDITION, TO
THE CHRIST CHURCH APRIL
6TH MEETING**

**Deposit in the Bra Box in the
foyer**

**BRA
BANK**

Can you name the musicals that the following songs come from?

- 1 I Could Have Danced All Night.
- 2 Defying Gravity.
- 3 Hello Young Lovers.
- 4 Too Darn Hot.
- 5 Love Changes Everything.
- 6 I Am What I Am.
- 7 Circle of Life.
- 8 It Ain't Necessarily So.
- 9 Big Spender.
- 10 You Can't Stop the Beat.
- 11 Matchmaker, Matchmaker.
- 12 No Matter What.
- 13 Send in the Clowns.
- 14 Any Dream Will Do.
- 15 You'll Never Walk Alone.
- 16 Seventy-Six Trombones.
- 17 As Long As He Needs Me.
- 18 Somewhere.
- 19 People Will Say We're In Love.
- 20 I Got Life.
- 21 I Don't Know How To Love Him.
- 22 Some Enchanted Evening.
- 23 If I Ruled The World.
- 24 Old Man River.
- 25 Tell Me It's Not True.



On Wednesday 16 February 40 members of Southport's Meet and Eat Group met up for a meal at the Spice of Bengal in Ainsdale.

The menu was agreed with the owner of Spice of Bengal, after much discussion this is the menu we set:

Papadom and chutney tray

Mixed Starter (Chicken Tikka and Onion Bhaji)

Main meal of either lamb, chicken or vegetables with a choice of four sauces.

All of this was accompanied by pilau rice and shared nan bread (between 2 people).

The quiz was general knowledge, which allowed everyone to have a good go at getting some answers correct. There was lots of chatter and everyone had a most enjoyable evening. The staff worked very hard and delivered our meals to each table with a smile on their faces. Thanks to all who came for the meal as well as thanks to all the staff at the Spice of Bengal.



Walking Group 4 Tackle The Douglas



20 walkers from walking group 4 set off in good weather to walk from Hesketh Bank along the River Douglas Dyke and back via Becconsall to Hesketh Bank.

Being Valentines day, the leader gave out Heart shaped chocolates to all the ladies!

The group stopped at Becconsall church for lunch and the leader obtained the key to the church for a visit.

We then visited the boat repair yard and then back to the car and a stop at Booths for cake and coffee

Allan Jones

**The drama group will be presenting their Pantomime,
"Treasure Island" at St James' Church Hall , Lulworth Road, Birkdale
on Saturday 18th March at 7.30pm and Sunday 19th March at 2.30pm.**

Tickets are £6 for adults and £1 for children and will be available at the March u3a meeting. They are selling fast so be sure to buy yours soon!

It will be the signature blend of comedy and chaos and while things may not always go to plan, we can guarantee good fun will be had by all!



ORMSHER-HULME TRIO at the S&BSCC on Monday April 17th; doors 7.30 pm

The Jazz Group are delighted to welcome (playing together for the first time) two of the UK's finest jazz guitarists, both of whom have been regular first call participants in many bands we have featured at U3A Jazz Group gigs over the last 7 years. Both have also featured extensively in Southport Jazz Festivals and

elsewhere around the British jazz scene for much longer than that. Who else but ANTHONY ORMESHER and ANDREW HULME! Jazz guitar is oft times closeted, holding together a band's rhythm section and only occasionally let loose with a solo or two. There have been some very notable exceptions who have achieved individual jazz world fame, such as our own Martin Taylor, French gypsy legend Django Reinhardt and 20th century USA stars such as Charlie Byrd, Herb Ellis, Barney Kessell, Pat Metheny, Wes Montgomery, Joe Pass and Les Paul.

The trio will be taking examples of the tunes and styles of some of these 'masters' and giving the music their own individual twist. Expect an enjoyable evening of accessible jazz with some familiar tunes and rhythms from Blues to Bossa.

Tickets are £25 which includes supper. Tickets on sale at the Christchurch meeting 2nd March. Reservations open now. Ring 01704 643835. email matthewsjazz@sky.com or [via the event on our website](#). The interval supper will be cooked and served on the premises by SIMPLY D'VINE CATERING.





We are honoured to have not one but two contributions from our [writing group](#) this month. Let's hope they are not the last.

Poppies

Sweet meadow señoritas, all unwise
Dance vibrant and alive beneath the sun,
Too boldly gazing up into his eyes,
They bloom and drop before their day is done.

A swoon of scarlet ladies blush and fall
Their fragile stems too weak to bear the weight
Of heavy, drooping heads - their petals sprawl
And lustrous, dark eyed faces bow to fate .

A bitter price to pay for flirting, so
No more to blow a kiss then turn away
Red satin dresses lying in a row,
Black stamen castanets no longer play.

Yet even while the lesson's barely learned
More budding beauties' petals have been burned.

Dotti Crossley

Harvest Festival

It was October and that meant it was Harvest Festival on the school calendar. Each class had duly rehearsed and were now ready to contribute to the performance. This year's theme was "Harvest of the Sea."

Reception and year 1 had all created their own fish masks apart from Joseph. Not long into the performance he had really got into the role as fisherman and had successfully lassoed his classmates in a tangle of nets. Mrs Momphrey gave him a withering look whilst encouraging the children to sing "1 2 3 4 5, once I caught a fish alive".

Years 2 & 3 had attempted choral speech with variable results. Laura, the daughter of the Chairman of Governors, had been selected to provide the final line. The story from St Mark was duly chanted in rasps and mumbles whilst Laura stepped forward to the front of the stage. Laura had a clear, carrying voice that was often heard above others in the classroom. Not surprisingly everybody heard her when she exclaimed, "Come, and I will make you fishfingers of men". The giggles started almost immediately so that by the time Miss Elsom and Mrs Tacker had chivvied their

year groups from the stage, most people were repeating Laura's new version of St Mark's Gospel.

Mrs Glazer had always felt that she had missed her chance in the world of dance. Whenever a school assembly or production was arranged, it was a certainty that her year groups would be seen swinging their arms about and performing pirouettes across the stage. This time was no exception. A pity really, as the years were "boy heavy". Boys outnumbered the girls 7 to 1. The lads would have been more comfortable in football boots. In fact, looking at their heavy and awkward timing, it was hard to believe that they were performing in bare feet. Once again there was lots of arm waving to signify seaweed being moved by the currents. Then the few girls darted high and low on tip toe like silvery fish between the outstretched arms of the boys. Some of the fish were brutally felled by the rather trunk like stems of weed. But this did not deter Mrs Glazer, who adjusted the volume of San Saens, to create a stirring finish.

Year 6 shuffled moodily onto the stage. They'd been part of this joyous Autumnal event for too many years. They were all relieved that the agony of a similar school production was not part of secondary school. Many of the Year 6 parents were hoodwinked into believing their children were enthusiastic about Harvest Festival. They had explained how much they had wanted their parents to share in the Festival Finale. Year 6's contribution was a series of poems and prayers that had kept them busy for several weeks in their literacy lessons. Only a few parents realised how cunning their darling children had become. The performance normally finished well before the end of the school day and the head Teacher always allowed those children whose parents had sat through the extravaganza of talent, could take their children home early.

Her beaming countenance was easily matched by her pupils.

"Before you all go, Miss Baker announced, remember we'll all be taking part shortly in our Christmas Production. We'll look forward to seeing you all in just a few months."

Trish Craven



Since the much missed U3A group member and movie buff, Michael Lockwood, had the vision and (and resources!) to buy and convert what was a scruffy and worn out 'night club' and turn it into a community arts cinema, it's actually turned out to be more than he originally envisioned. His team, lead by manager Andy Harrison has made a great success, not only of the movie theatre, but in developing the 'upstairs' space above the cinema into a venue for locals to book for private functions and events. There are two inexpensive bars and a lift to upstairs for the needy.

For the [Jazz Group](#) it has been an opportunity to combine the visual with the acoustic experience - film and live music. There is also sufficient space to allow top end simple catering to complete group members' experience.

The gig on Monday 6th March (our 5th such event) includes a classic jazz film ('Round Midnight') with a full on live quintet of top northern jazz musicians (The Mike Hall 5tet) to recreate the mood, atmosphere of the 1950's jazz era. Simply D'Vine catering will serve the meal. There's still room for folks to book. Just call (01704 643835) or email me (matthewsjazz@sky.com) or drop by the Jazz Desk on Christchurch meetings day. Tickets £40 covers all



Quiz



Wednesday 15th March 2023
At:- Fleetwood Hesketh Club
Fylde Road
Southport
PR9 9XH

Arrive 7pm
for 7.30pm start



Includes:- Hotpot Supper & Raffle

Cash Prizes

Tickets £9

Enrol and pay through' Simple Membership
or contact Neil McMillan at the monthly meetings

Queries to:- neilmcmillan6@hotmail.com

TIME TO HAVE YOUR SAY

In response to requests from members, to introduce a membership system integrated into our new website, Simple Membership was chosen and went live in December last year.

Many months had been spent, testing and tweaking, to make sure the system was as glitch free as possible. However, it is never possible to cover everything in test and, when a system goes live to more than 1,600 members, it is an absolute certainty that some issues will be discovered.

Now that the renewals period is coming to a close and you have had a chance to get used to the new system, it is time to get your feedback. We have therefore compiled a short online survey for you. The survey is anonymous, so you can be honest in your answers.

The feedback we get will be used to decide where the system needs improvement and also to highlight any issues about which we may not be aware.



Link Removed



If you haven't already signed up for our Daily Digest you could be missing out on important news.

On days when a fresh news item has been published on our website, a notification is sent to subscribers.

News items take all forms but are always about things of interest to Southport u3a members. New events, group news, local activities, etc.

It only takes a minute to subscribe

[Click here to do so.](#)

Member Contact Details



In your [Member Profile](#), you are able to specify your preferred contact phone and also add emergency contact details.

If you plan to attend events, it is much better for the event organisers if you are able to set your mobile phone as the preferred contact method. That means they will be able to contact you at short notice if something changes relating to the event.

Your emergency contact information is very important, for obvious reasons.

Thank you for your co-operation.



It's time to Spring Into Action! The committee has been busy putting together ideas for new groups and are now looking for people interested in taking part in those groups. [Take a look at our recent post about it here.](#)

The next Southport u3a Coffee Morning, at Cafe 1821, is on Thursday 9th March @ 10:30am.



NO NEED TO BOOK - JUST TURN UP
Open to all Southport u3a members



Let's Go... ...to View Snowdrops

17 members of the Lets Go Group went to Bank Hall, Bretherton, this month, to see the carpet of Snowdrops in the grounds of the renovated Bank Hall. We were then taken by Janet, one of the volunteers, into the Prospect Tower, where she told us a little of the history and the renovation work that has been undertaken.

Finally, we just had to go for the obligatory tea and cake at Sootys garden centre.



COOK FOR THE KING!

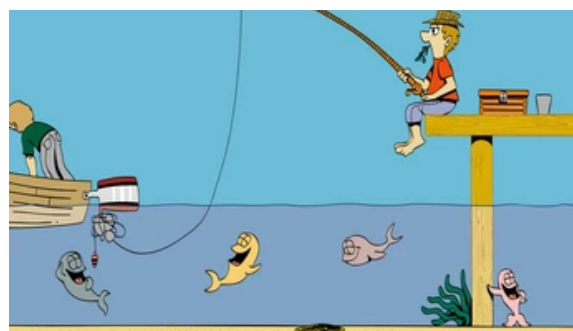
The latest edition of the u3a Newsletter includes the following article:

“Following a wonderful suggestion from a member on how to mark the forthcoming Coronation in May - we are launching a new initiative - 'Cook for the King'”

We would like you to create a dish that celebrates and reflects Britain in 2023.

We would love the u3a movement to find the dish of the 2023 Coronation - one to become as famous as Coronation Chicken.”

If you are interested in this opportunity to become a culinary celebrity, click [HERE](#) to visit the competition page for more details.



Wine 4

IBERIAN PENINSULA

Spain & Portugal



**Venue :-Barnista
Birkdale**

£25 pp

2 Wine Tasting Evenings

Monday 13th March 2023

&

Tuesday 28th March 2023

Can you name the musicals that the following songs come from?

ANSWERS

- 1 MY FAIR LADY.
- 2 WICKED.
- 3 THE KING & I.
- 4 KISS ME KATE.
- 5 ASPECTS OF LOVE.
- 6 LA CAGE AUX FOLLES.
- 7 THE LION KING.
- 8 PORGY AND BESS.
- 9 SWEET CHARITY.
- 10 HAIRSPRAY.
- 11 FIDDLER ON THE ROOF.
- 12 WHISTLE DOWN THE WIND.
- 13 A LITTLE NIGHT MUSIC.
- 14 JOSEPH & HIS AMAZING TECHNICOLOUR DREAMBOAT.
- 15 CAROUSEL.
- 16 THE MUSIC MAN.
- 17 OLIVER!
- 18 WEST SIDE STORY.
- 19 OKLAHOMA!
- 20 HAIR.
- 21 JESUS CHRIST - SUPERSTAR.
- 22 SOUTH PACIFIC.
- 23 PICKWICK.
- 24 SHOWBOAT.
- 25 BLOOD BROTHERS.

