

Is Easter The New Christmas?



Well according to our Gardening Groups March Speaker, Jacqueline Iddon, it most definitely is. She arrived laden with a huge collection of faux Easter eggs, ditto Easter bunnies, flowers, twigs, some lovely containers and a wonderful collection of plants.



Jacqueline is a regular speaker to our group, very talented and very funny. She had us all in stitches as she explained that these days Easter is not just a nice weekend with a bit more chocolate than usual, but a properly full-on celebration like Christmas, with cards and presents and big family feasts, and of course the house must be decorated with lots and lots of Easter themed arrangements.



She showed us how to plant up a lovely herb pot complete with rabbit. There were pretty cups and saucers with violas and eggs, a vase of tulips, blossom and the twigs hung with eggs. That's not all! There were lots of other gorgeous compilations.

She made it all look so easy while she entertained us with comical tales about where she'd acquired all these Easter goodies and life generally in the Iddon

family.

It was a most enjoyable meeting, lots of great ideas for Easter, we bought all her lovely plants and everyone got a chocolate egg. The u3a Gardening Group is on track for Easter!



Tai Chi 2 has vacancies for new beginners.

If you have never seen Tai Chi you may be worried that it is like a Martial Art. While this is true for its origin, the practice of Tai Chi is more like a dance, with no squirming around on the floor and no ridiculous bending and stretching. Tai Chi is a series of gentle physical exercises and stretches. Each posture flows into the next without pause, ensuring that your body is in constant motion. Tai chi is sometimes described as meditation in motion because it promotes serenity through gentle movements — connecting the mind and body.

Physically Tai Chi will help you with your balance, your flexibility and your breathing, and mentally it encourages a feeling of well-being.

We are looking for a few new beginners to learn the 24 Short Form,. If you express an interest by [logging in on the Southport u3a website](#), then [emailing the group leaders from the group page](#), you will be added to the list and when enough members have responded we will invite you to join the class.

We meet every Thursday morning from 11.30 to 12.30 at Lord Street West Church, and charge a session fee of £4.00 to cover the cost of Hall Hire and the Tutor Fee



DRAMA GROUP HUNT FOR TREASURE

YES, ONCE AGAIN THE DRAMA GROUP PLAYED TO PACKED AUDIENCES THIS MONTH, WITH THEIR UNIQUE VARIATION ON THE THEME "TREASURE ISLAND". WITH MUSIC, JOKES, GREAT COSTUMES, GREAT ACTING, GREAT CHORUS - AND JULIE DRESSED AS A PARROT!! - WHAT COULD GO WRONG?? WELL, NOTHING REALLY - IT WAS GREAT ENTERTAINMENT AND EVEN HAD TEA AND BISCUITS THROWN IN FREE AT THE INTERVAL.



Can you name the novels which featured these famous literary villains?



- 1 Harry Flashman
- 2 Count Dracula
- 3 Agatha Trunchbull
- 4 Norman Bates



- 5 Alec D'Uberville
- 6 Patrick Bateman
- 7 Cruella De Vil
- 8 Nils Bjurman



- 9 Uriah Heep
- 10 Lord Voldemort
- 11 Professor Moriarty
- 12 Annie Wilkes



- 13 Wicked Witch of the West
- 14 Pinkie Brown
- 15 Long John Silver
- 16 Ernst Stavro Blofeld
- 17 Frankenstein's Monster



- 18 Hannibal Lecter
- 19 Captain Hook
- 20 Sauron
- 21 Miss Danvers
- 22 Lago
- 23 The White Witch



- 24 Nurse Ratched
- 25 Bill Sikes



Nine intrepid Lets Go members went to Heywood Station near Bury, to see a static Flying Scotsman celebrating its Centenary, which was 24th February.

The day started with an interesting weather intervention overnight in the form of snow, fortunately thawing quickly, and

only visible on the hills.

Some of us went to Bury Market first, and then we all met at Heywood Station to see the Flying Scotsman. Everyone was enthralled by the Flying Scotsman, which was seen in glorious March afternoon sunshine.

At the start of the tour, there was a very interesting talk on the 100 year history of the train given by a volunteer on the East Lancashire Railway in one of the carriages. We went from the carriages through a specially designed tender with a tunnel in it, to reach the footplate. The tunnel had enabled the train to keep travelling, while changing staff on the long journey between London and Edinburgh from the 1920's onwards.

On the footplate the Engine was fired up, and we were able to sit on the driver and engineers' seats; while talking to more volunteers about the controls and their functions. It was a fascinating afternoon.

Further information about the Flying Scotsman this year can be obtained on <https://www.railwaymuseum.org.uk/flying-scotsman/centenary-programme>



Some of us sneaked back another day to see it running

SOUTHPORT & BIRKDALE SPORTS CLUB

(Trafalgar Road, Birkdale PR8 2HF. Ample car parking and taxi drop off/pickup point: nearest station Birkdale 1/3 mile :bus stop Bolton Rd 49 & X2)

By arrangement with Simply D'Vine Catering and S&BSC

ON MONDAY 15th MAY TICKETS £25 (includes supper)

Doors 7.30 pm. Music 8 to 10.30 pm with one interval when supper* will be served

THE DEAN MASSER ALL STAR QUINTET



THE QUINTET

Leader and tenor sax
Dean Masser



Keyboard
Andrzej Baranek



Trumpet and Flugelhorn
Mark Chandler

Double bass
Steve Berry



Drums
Gaz Hughes

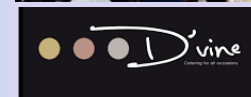
This will be tenor sax virtuoso Dean Masser's first visit to our U3A Jazz Group as band leader. His hard swinging lyrical style, reminiscent of Dexter Gordon, is always a joy to hear. Whilst we have also enjoyed Andrzej Baranek's wonderful keyboard skills in various combos' many times at Boulevard West, the other three members of Dean's truly 'all star' line up for this gig, whilst being 'first timers' to our group, are all three highly regarded jazz stars. Steve Berry (double bass) has played in many top level bands including Loose Tubes. He is also Head of Jazz and Improvisation at Manchester's Royal College of Music. Drummer Gaz Hughes also leads his own highly regarded trio which was recently featured in Southport Jazz Festival at The Grand in early February. He also plays with the SwingtimeBig Band. After joining the National Youth Jazz Orchestra (at the age of 11!), trumpeter Mark Chandler went on to work professionally in London as a session musician until recently returning North to lead his own quintet and to become a Senior Lecturer in Jazz at Leeds Conservatoire. Dean tells me he picked him for this band on account of his superb tone and creative soloing on the flugelhorn.

Buy tickets [visit](#) Southport U3A Jazz Desk at the monthly meetings or [phone](#) Geoff Matthews 01704 643835 or [post](#) - cheques payable 'Southport U3A' to 1A Crosby Rd, Birkdale, PR8 4SU (+ SAE) or [pay on line](#) by card or Paypal via "Simple Membership"

THE VENUE

It's our fourth gig at this fine sports club whose hospitality and bar services were most appreciated by our Jazz Group.

* D'Vine Catering will serve special diet needs : GF, vegetarian or vegan if you specify when booking.



One of our new members Richard Barton has offered to create a new group from the musicians amongst us. Richard has sourced a purpose built venue on a residential road near Meols Cop Station with free unregulated parking. The plan is it will take place Tuesdays - possibly 1-4pm (no start date yet).

If this is of interest to you please contact Richard giving him some idea of your experience and what instruments you play, directly on his email rb35789@gmail.com

This group is for people who can already play an instrument to come together and make music. It is also open to singers and anyone who has wanted to try singing with a band. Initially it will be about improvising (jamming) together around a simple set of chords. When the group is established we will then work on specific songs.

Learning will be from recordings but, if available, written scores and lead sheets may be provided for those who prefer to read. If things work well, every member of the band will be able to suggest a song they would like us all to play There is no limit on style or genre of music. Eventually we will make some recordings and possibly, if everyone is willing, do some live performances (gigs) in a safe, no pressure venue.

The rehearsal room is fully equipped with guitar amplifiers, a drum kit, a P.A. system (vocal



amplification with many microphones) and a yamaha clavivova electric piano. It also has equipment for making recordings. All instruments are welcome but not quiet instruments such as a ukulele, unless you have your own transducer. (not a microphone)

This group will be run by Richard, an ex-professional bass player, so sorry no bass players needed. He is also a retired recording engineer and music lecturer. and can therefore teach you any aspect of music and music theory.

This group is obviously not for beginners but you do not have to be of a high standard or be able to read music. For the first jam, guitarists & keyboard players should be able to fluently play the chords A major, A7, D major, D7, E major E7. If you can play them in a 12 bar blues pattern even better.

On Thursday 16th March a group of Local History members went on a visit to the Lawn Mower museum on Shakespeare St Southport. The museum is owned and run by Brian Radam who has been a lawn mower history enthusiast for a number of years. The museum is compact but has 3 floors filled with a variety of mowers.

I know you will laugh and think 'history of lawn mowers....ha ha ha!' but Brian made the tour informative and amusing with a number of stories

Over the years Brian has acquired and been donated a variety of lawn mowers. Prince Charles and Diana received a ride on mower as a wedding gift which is on display at the museum. Brian May, Jean Alexander, Alan Titmarsh, Paul O'Grady and Albert Pierrepoint are just a few names who have donated mowers.

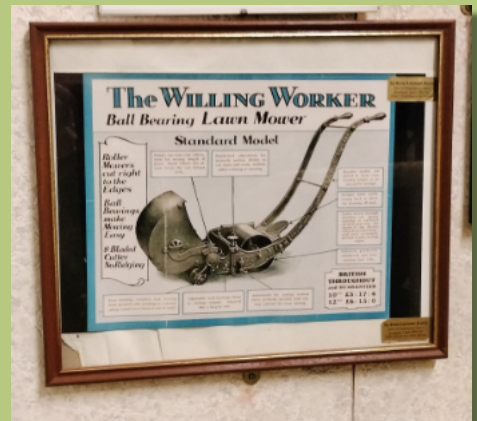


People can become attached to their mowers and not want them going for scrap which is how the museum has acquired so many. Eric Morecambe contacted Brian and asked if he would like his mower. When Brian arrived to collect the mower Eric was in his garden donning a four cornered hankie on his head and about to burn 'ITS A BOY' into his lawn ...his wife having just given birth to their 1st child.



The first lawn mower invented and on show at the museum was manufactured in 1830 by Edward Beard Budding of Gloucester. He had to test his strange contraption at night when the gardeners were not around.

Originally designed to trim the nap from cloth the environmentally friendly cylinder cutting machine he designed has not changed in principle since that date and has been the traditional lawn mower since.



The museum has become one of the world's leading authorities. Housing extensive archive service on vintage lawnmowers and is the largest specialist in antique and classic garden machinery, including conservation of original patents, blueprints and memorabilia from 1799.



In this unique in the world, national collection are manufacturers not normally associated with the garden industry. Names such as Rolls Royce, Royal Enfield, Vincent, Dennis, Hawker Suddeny, Perkins, Leyland Motors and more

The museum is well worth a visit and a lot more interesting and entertaining than you think.

Did you know there is an association which meets and races lawn mowers?? The NMLMRA. One mower on display at the museum has achieved 60mph. James May and Sterling Moss are just two of the many enthusiasts.





There is an exciting upcoming cycling event at Southport Rugby Club on Waterloo Road, which takes cyclists across Lancashire and Merseyside.

The Cycle of Hope is a one day cycling event in aid of local cancer charity, North West Cancer Research. The date is 11th June.

It is only £20 to sign up (with a £30 fundraising target) and choose from a 60km or 60 mile route through Merseyside and Lancashire countryside.

All proceeds go back to North West Cancer Research, a charity which is dedicated to putting our region's cancer needs first by tackling the cancers that most affect us here in the North West. Our HQ is on London Road in Liverpool City Centre and we fund projects happening right now at Lancaster University.

You can find out more about the event and see the routes at nwcr.org/cycle



learn,
laugh,
live

If you haven't signed up for Pickleball yet, there are still some spaces available.

Pickleball is a fun sport that combines many elements of tennis, badminton and ping-pong. Played both indoors or outdoors on a badminton-sized court and a slightly modified tennis net. Played with a paddle and a plastic ball with holes. Played as doubles or singles.

Southport u3a join group icon

To join the group, [log in to the membership system](#) and then go to the [Pickleball 2 group page](#).



To join, look for the join icon (shown left) at the top of the group page. Alternatively, use the envelope icon to contact the leader.



If you fancy testing your hand eye co-ordination in a friendly setting, why not take yourself along to our [Table Tennis 1 group page](#) and join up? There are spaces available, just

remember to [log in to our membership system](#) first.

If you have a Smartphone you need to read this!

Spotted on the BBC website is an article stating that a new emergency warning system is to be tested on April 23rd and will involve every smartphone sounding a warning siren.

[Read the full article here.](#)

[Sign up to our Daily Digest!](#)

Do you know Southport U3a has its own Facebook group, with 190 plus members?



It shares news about the U3a and the area, requests and offers for help, and items of amusement. It does not share commercial items.

If you'd like to join, [click this link](#) to go to our Facebook page and ask to join, giving your u3a membership number and confirmation that you have read and agreed the group's rules

Paul

If you have ever fancied yourself as a bowman, you now have a chance to try out archery.



We still have a few vacancies in our new Archery group. To find out the details and apply to join, [visit the group page](#).



Our 'Try Sailing' group are back in action this year, on the Marine Lake in Southport.

For a chance to learn about dinghy sailing, with experienced sailors, in a safe setting, visit the [Try Sailing group page](#).

Blooming Marvellous

u3a
Southport

Yes, Southport u3a are at it again and will be returning to the Southport Flower Show in strength in August - Thursday 17th to Sunday 20th, in Victoria Park

Last year we created a winning show garden, gaining a Large Gold Medal and a Silver cup. After TV appearances and local radio interviews Southport u3a certainly made our mark – *and they want us back.*

However, this year, the Gardening Group, won't be building an actual outside show garden - but you will find us in the Societies Tent – under a fabulous Victorian Ironwork Gazebo adorned with a eclectic collection of blooms grown specially for the show.

FANCY YOURSELF AS A GARDEN DESIGNER?

We are running a competition* to design a small 6 x 6 metre u3a garden, to be judged by a UK Celebrity Gardening expert.

The winner gets two VIP tickets to the 100th Anniversary Southport 1920's Gala Flower Show in 2024.

Worth £240 with dinner, afternoon tea, meet the celebrities and much, much more.

*You will need to submit a Title for your garden with a design brief description, including the main features, colour palette and any hard landscaping, and why you feel the design is suitable for a u3a Member.

Also, a drawing of your garden - this does not need to be too detailed, either an overhead design or front view is all that is required. Ideally it should be a sustainable and environmentally friendly design. Extra points will be given for originality and suitability – You don't need to have a budget - so go create!!

The winning design will be displayed on the Southport u3a stand

For information on the Design a Garden Competition please contact Southportu3aflowershow@gmail.com



IT'S BACK!!

OUR SPECIAL U3A DISCOUNT SCHEME

Once again, all u3a Members will be entitled to a discount off their advanced ticket price.

By entering the code **SFSU3A** into the online booking system, members get tickets for just **£19** each instead of the £28 normal entry



Southport
Flower Show

17th – 20th August 2023

Don't Forget – Kids Go FREE!*

**BRING
OUT**

**YOUR
SPECS**

"Bring out your Specs" is a call for lenses from unwanted spectacles and sunglasses. The lenses will be used to create a huge *Dragonfly Sculpture* aimed at generating awareness of the importance of insects.

This Dragonfly will be built at the Oswestry Sculpture Park.

The sculptor, Clive Knowles, also engineered The Knife Angel Sculpture to raise awareness of youth knife crime from handed knives from police forces all over the country.

**BRING YOUR
UNWANTED
SPECTACLES AND
SUNGLASSES -
& DEPOSIT THEM IN
THE BIN IN THE
FOYER OF
CHRISTCHURCH
MAY 4TH MEETING**

BRITISH



IRONWORK CENTRE

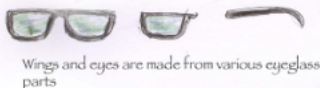
ECOLOGICAL
EDUCATIONAL PROJECT®

THE ALL SEEING DRAGONFLY.
MADE FROM 100,000 UNWANTED
PAIRS OF SPECTACLES, READERS
AND SUNGLASSES.

VISION BY CLIVE KNOWLES



NATIONAL DEPOSITORY FOR RECYCLING
SPECTACLES



Wings and eyes are made from various eyeglass parts

17/03/23

Spring time for most of us is synonymous with fields of Daffodils blowing gently in the Spring time breeze. A group of hardy Let's Go members braved the "not so Springtime" weather to wander round Sefton Park to gaze at the fields of daffodils. The weather may have let them down a bit, but the daffodils certainly didn't!!

They still had a lovely time - and they finished it all off with a really nice lunch at the Elif Turkish Restaurant in Lark Lane before getting the train back to Southport





- 1 Tom Brown's Schooldays.
- 2 Dracula
- 3 Matilda
- 4 Psycho
- 5 Tess of the D'Ubervilles

- 6 American Psycho
- 7 101 Dalmations
- 8 The Girl With the Dragon Tattoo
- 9 David Copperfield
- 10 Harry Potter



- 11 Sherlock Holmes
- 12 Misery
- 13 Wizard of Oz
- 14 Brighton Rock
- 15 Treasure Island
- 16 Thunderball



- 17 Frankenstein
- 18 Red Dragon
- 19 Peter Pan
- 20 Lord of the Rings



- 21 Rebecca
- 22 Othello
- 23 The Lion, The Witch & The Wardrobe
- 24 One Flew Over the Cuckoo's Nest
- 25 Oliver Twist

