

On a glorious Wednesday evening this month, seven members of Southport u3a attended a 'Taster Session' at the [Southport and Birkdale Croquet Club](#).

The attendees teamed up and were helped in the finer arts and strategies of croquet, including blasting your opponents ball as far away from the hoop as possible!

Everybody enthused about how good a time they had, in fact people were enjoying it so much they forgot to take any photographs!

Many thanks to Roberta Homewood for arranging it and to the members of the croquet club who helped with coaching.

The Cycling For Fun group have vacancies for additional cyclists.

The group meet fortnightly, on Tuesday mornings, for rides typically between 10 and 15 miles. Starting points are varied, but normally within easy reach of Southport centre. Routes are carefully selected for safety (and refreshments).

If you are interested in joining, you can contact the leaders via the [Cycling For Fun group page](#).



The Southport u3a [Poetry Group](#) have been included in the latest Fringe Poetry magazine, available at the link below.

<https://www.smashwords.com/books/view/1392539>

On Wednesday 3rd May, the Southport u3a Group Leaders gathered at Clouds, for the annual Group Leaders Day. This is the occasion held to thank the Group Leaders for the work they put in to run our excellent group activities.

The entire day was designed to be fun, but undoubtedly the humour escalated during the presentations of the New Group Challenge. This is where our Group Leaders are given (currently) fictitious groups and asked to make short presentations of how they would go about setting them up and what the groups would do. Despite honourable efforts from all of the teams, it was the Morris Dancing group presentation which stole the show (other presentations are available).

All in all, the 2023 Group Leaders Day was full of positivity and truly reflected the volunteer ethos of the u3a.



If you are at all interested in wildlife, it is definitely worth considering a visit to [Gigrin Farm](#), in mid Wales!



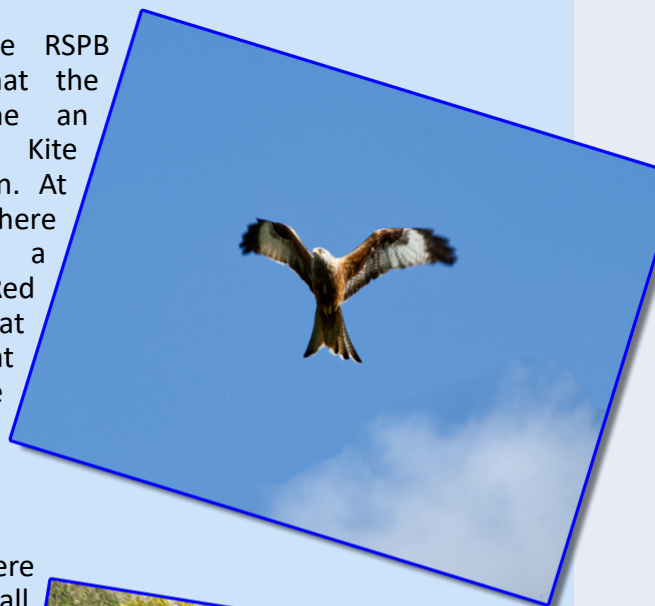
Red Kites have been fed at Gigrin Farm for well over 30 years, the late Mr. Powell starting the practice when he noticed Kites were struggling to get food at certain times of the year.

In 1992, the RSPB requested that the farm become an official Red Kite feeding station. At that time there were just a handful of Red Kites feeding at

the farm. These days, that number can be anywhere between 300 and 600, depending on the time of year.

The photos you see here are just a small selection from about 300 I took in 2 hours, trying to get a decent shot of these incredible and incredibly fast moving birds.

Ian Homewood



COME AND TRY BOARD GAMES GROUP



Board Games Group enjoying themselves on a Monday afternoon, the nearest group are playing "Sequence", the 2nd group "Catan", and another group had just finished "Payday" and about to play "Cluedo".

There are still vacancies in the group who meet fortnightly at Eton Court, near Hesketh Park, [further details are on u3a website if you wish to join](http://www.southportu3a.org.uk).

Walking group 2 (Short walks) had a lovely walk on the Asparagus Trail Formby on Friday 19th May. The weather was good and we saw some asparagus growing in a couple of places. The first field at the beginning of the walk looked as if it was being harvested this year, but like the last couple of years the fields further along the walk looked as if they were not being harvested and almost left fallow.

We finished our walk at the little cafe near Freshfield Station 'No 6' formerly known as 'Kitties' with lunch



PILATES 3 AVAILABLE TO JOIN NOW

Some places are available at the newest Pilates group which meets on Thursdays at 2.15pm - 3.15pm at St John's Church, Liverpool Rd, Ainsdale.

Led by expert professional instructor Sandie Keane, classes cost £5. (Please note there is no class on 1st June)

You will need to bring a mat, towel and stretch band if possible.

Please [contact Group Leader Helen Pritchard](mailto:editor@southportu3a.org.uk) for more information.



CONCERT HALLS AROUND THE WORLD

Which cities would you find these venues in

learn,
laugh,
live



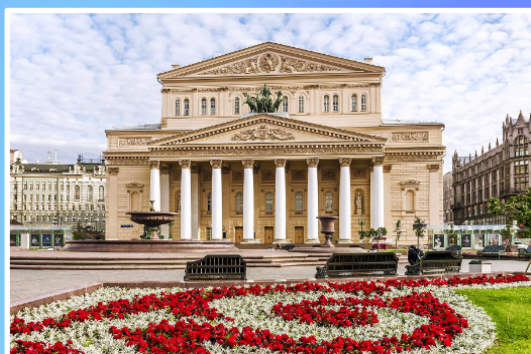
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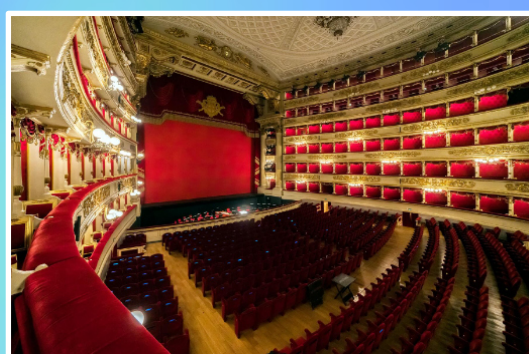
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With the Coronation Tea Party safely delivered our next challenge is the Flower Show garden. We do have a plan the centre of which is a fabulous Victorian gazebo, obviously our modest budget doesn't run to such magnificence, so we need to borrow one. As Chris demonstrated such impressive persuasive skills finding sponsors for our flower show garden last year, she was in charge of finding one.

She contacted Sir Clive Knowles, chairman of the British Iron foundry and Oswestry Sculpture Park, a very nice chap and very happy to lend us a beautiful gazebo in return for collecting spectacles and sunglasses to make his next sculpture project, an enormous dragonfly.

For the last few weeks with your help we have been busy collecting and last week we loaded up the car with a few sacks of specs and Chris and I set off for Oswestry.

Sir Clive was delighted with our hoard, and summoned his photographer to take wacky pics of us both surrounded by our mountain of glasses. In fact he was so pleased he offered free entry tickets to all u3a members nationally. He organised a buggy for us to drive around the park and by the time we got back he'd designed and printed off some tickets. **Please contact the Events Team if you require free tickets.**

The sculpture park is amazing, designed as an eco-friendly educational centre and a registered charity. In the main building, the Forge cafe and the park is an enormous collection of original metal artwork, packed with incredible sculptures all made from recycled metal, nuts, bolts and every type of ironmongery you can think of, much of it done on a humorous theme, so much to see around every corner. There's a gorilla the size of a house made entirely from spoons, lots of unusual and beautiful artwork to buy and acres of land to explore filled with hundreds of metal sculptures of both mythical and endangered species of animals.

We had a fabulous day out and can recommend a visit. Thank you all for your old specs but more are needed so we are still collecting. Please ask everyone you know for their old spectacles and sunglasses, we will be collecting at the next Christ Church meeting, Gardening Group and Yoga, if you have a sizeable collection but are unable to deliver we can collect.

Diane Fitton



For the May meeting the Gardening Group were treated to a fascinating talk by the bubbly Sue Clarke, about the English gardener & writer Margery Fish.

Born in 1892, after an early career as a journalist in London she moved with her husband to East Lambrook manor in Somerset, she was passionate about the country garden style and created a beautiful garden there, which has now been restored and is open to the public.



She wrote many very successful books on gardening, her first in 1956 called 'We made a Garden'. In the late 50s she opened her

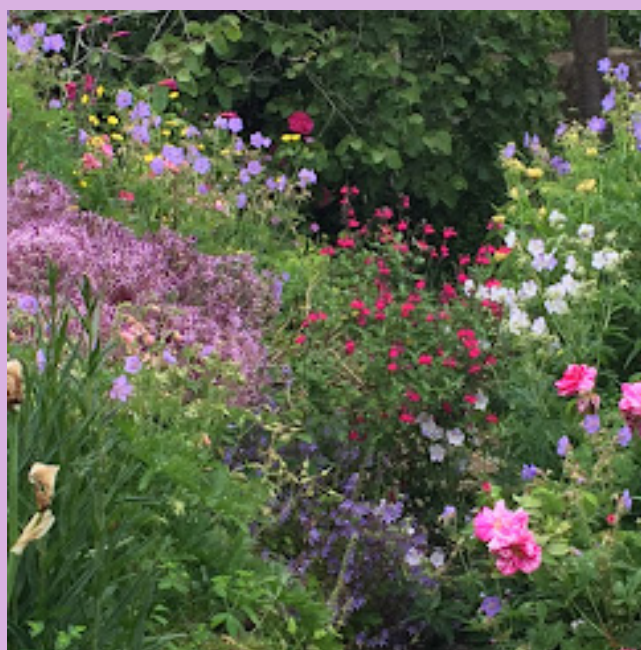
garden to the public for charity and became one of the most admired gardeners and garden writers of her day after Vita Sackville-West.

Sue is also ardent about cottage gardens, and had visited Marjory's garden many times, she showed us lots of pics of this lovely place, and gave us plenty of advice about plant varieties and achieving this style of planting, including a quote from the lady herself 'when in doubt plant a geranium', I think we'll be having Sue back for



her talk on geraniums!

There was also an excellent plant sale and most of us left with at least one plant.



TAI CHI 5 ARE RECRUITING

Meet Friday 11.30-12.30

Emmanuel Church, Cambridge Road

£4 per session



LUNCH BUNCH



Please email menu choices and make any payments due for the next **Sunday Lunch Group** event on the 9 July 2023 via the u3a website as soon as possible or at the June Christchurch U3a meeting.
Event leader, Sylvia Howard will be sat at the Sunday Lunch Group Desk.



Looking forward to our next gig, only 3 weeks away at **THE BIJOU CINEMA** on **Monday June 12th** when we will be entertained by the London based **SHIRLEY SMART TRIO**. Shirley is a classically trained jazz cellist whose style is heavily influenced through a ten year residence in Israel where she got to play with some of the regions finest musicians and experienced the regional North African and Middle Eastern rhythms. Some more information about the gig on the attached flyer which also includes a showing of the **"Road to Morocco"** a 1942 musical featuring Bing Crosby, Bob Hope and Dorothy Lamour. There's also a two course hot meal which you can select your choice of dishes

when you sign up for the gig and regulars at our Bijou gigs will know that the wine list is a good one and the prices are very reasonable.

We've already allocated more than half the available seats so do let me know ASAP if you would like to come along. Tickets £40 each for the whole lot. Thanks to those already signed up.

Ring 01704 643835

email matthewsjazz@sky.com or [contact via the event page](#)

visit The Jazz Desk at Christchurch Thursday 1st June



SOUTHPORT U3A JAZZ GROUP AT
THE BIJOU CINEMA, POST OFFICE AVENUE, SOUTHPORT PR8 1JP
(Just off Lord St close to Sainsburys, all main bus routes and Southport station)

By agreement with manager Andy Harrison, our 6th gig at the Bijou Cinema



1942 Paramount 'Road series' film "Road to Morocco", a hot meal and The Shirley Smart Trio
on MONDAY 12th JUNE 2023 - Doors 3.30 pm - ends 10 pm - maximum 65 attendees

THE FILM SHOWING starts at 4.0 pm in the movie theatre



DIRECTED by David Butler
MUSIC SCORE by Victor Young
SONGS by Jimmy Van Heusen and lyrics by Johnny Burke
INCLUDING
"MOONLIGHT BECOMES YOU"
"CONSTANTLY"
"AIN'T GOT A DIME TO MY NAME"
"ROAD TO MOROCCO"

Shipwrecked off the North African coast our heroes discover an Arabian Nights city. Jeff (Bing Crosby) sells best friend Orville (Bob Hope) into slavery in a Moroccan marketplace to buy food. Searching for his partner after an attack of conscience, Jeff discovers that Orville is now engaged to the gorgeous Princess Shalmar (Dorothy Lamour), whose astrologers have told her that her first husband will die violently, leaving her free to marry her beloved Sheik Mullah Kasim (Anthony Quinn). But when the princess falls for Jeff, things get complicated. This 1942 war time escapist musical-comedy was actually filmed in the Imperial Sand Dunes near Yuma in Southern California.

THE 2 COURSE HOT MEAL 6.30 pm
prepared and served by



MENU CHOICES TO FOLLOW

TICKETS £40 EACH (includes the meal)

Pre booking essential. To reserve by phone Geoff Matthews on 01704 643835.
By Post—Cheques payable 'Southport U3A' + SAE to 1A Crosby Rd, Birkdale PR8 4SU.
Or buy tickets at the Southport U3A Jazz Desk meetings at Christchurch starting Jan.5th
Or pay on line by card or Paypal via SIMPLE MEMBERSHIP.

THE LIVE JAZZ from 7.30 - 10 pm
in the Bijou Lounge

SHIRLEY SMART TRIO
Shirley Smart - cello
John Crawford - keyboard
Demi Garcia Sabat - percussion



Led by jazz cellist, composer, arranger & educator Shirley, this exciting London based trio has toured extensively and featured at many jazz festivals, including Scarborough where your Group Leader met them last year. Shirley has also lived and worked in Israel for 10 years and her music is influenced by Middle Eastern and North African rhythms and styles fused into the jazz idiom.

THE VENUE



Under the direction of the late Michael Lockwood, the building, formerly 'The Latin Lounge' has undergone a major 2 year project to convert to a 70 seat community cinema and a comfortable upstairs entertainment lounge bar, plus an excellent small ground floor bar.

DRINKS

Good selection of bottled craft beers, a choice of reasonably priced wines and spirits, soft drinks and tea/coffee available, all of which can be taken into the cinema. The comfortable seats are equipped with drinks holders.

www.southportbijoucinema.co.uk

Wine 4

Taste of The Americas



**Venue :-Barnista
Birkdale
£25 pp**

**1 Wine Tasting Evening
Tuesday 27th June 2023**

ANSWERS

- | | |
|---|--------------------------------------|
| A Opera House, Vienna | F La Scala, Milan |
| B Disney Concert Hall, Los Angeles | G Sydney Opera House |
| C Albert hall, London | H Verona Opera Festival |
| D Carnegie Hall, New York | I Hollywood Bowl, Los Angeles |
| E Bolshoi Theatre, Moscow | J Minack Theatre, Cornwall |



FANCY A TIPPLE??

**THERE ARE STILL SOME PLACES
AVAILABLE FOR THE WHISKY TASTING 2
EVENT**

THURSDAY 20TH JULY - 7pm

**At the DRAM WHISKY SHOP IN
CHURCHTOWN.**

We will be tasting six different whiskies from around the regions of Scotland under the watchful eye of owner Darren, who will be telling us about the whiskies and demonstrating the best ways to enjoy this golden nectar.

Cost £35.00

FANCY?? - then sign up on the Events page of the u3a website

A guy walks into a lumberyard and asks for some two-by-fours. The clerk asks, "How long do you need them?" The guy answers, "A long time. We're gonna build a house."



Being a little older, I am very fortunate to have someone call and check on me everyday. He is from India and is very concerned about my car warranty.