



Following the news that Paul Carter is standing down as the Administrator for the [Southport u3a Facebook site](#), I am happy to announce that **Bobbie Matthews** has volunteered to take on the Administrator role

Bobbie has been a staunch supporter of Southport u3a since retiring from her shop in 2014. She served for a number of years on the u3a Committee as Social Secretary, and recently has been helping in the background with Group Leaders in a number of roles.

She is, of course the powerhouse behind Geoff Matthew's Jazz Group (he says!!) and, as well as keeping Geoff organised, for a number of years has been supplying the home cooked food at the monthly Jazz meetings at Boulevard West.

When we interviewed Bobbie about her new role, she said -

“With almost 1500 Southport u3a members using the internet I am sure many of those are also using Facebook regularly. I would love more of these members to sign up to the Southport site and use this as a way of interacting with their fellow members in the way that most Facebook sites do. I look forward to seeing a lot more members signing up and hearing all about their experiences.”



The [Relaxez-Vous group](#) recently met for lunch at Delizzis on Tulketh Street. We are a class of about 9 ladies who meet at the Salvation Army for simple chair / standing exercises ending with a relaxation tape & then coffee & chat in the cafe. Our leader Cynthia has been away so we met for a catch-up at Delizzis. We look forward to resuming our class in July.

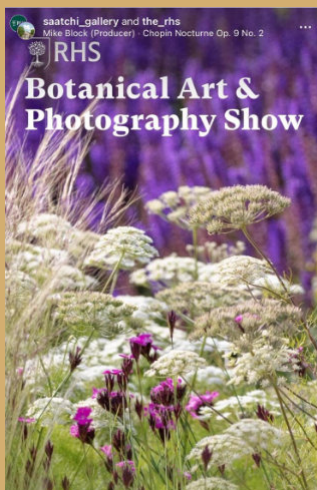
Barbara

Some breaking news!!!

[Photography 1](#) member, Julie Pigula, who is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Photographers, was invited by the Saatchi Gallery in London to submit some of her photographs for their Botanical Photography Exhibition taking place this summer.

Not only are they displaying her images, they have used two of them to advertise the Exhibition.

Congratulations Julie



In the last of the OY CZ painting series, the group gathered at Peter Owen's studio in Birkdale.

During the session in the morning they were all challenged to create a Welsh landscape and in the afternoon free to create their own abstract.

It was yet another great day in the studio.

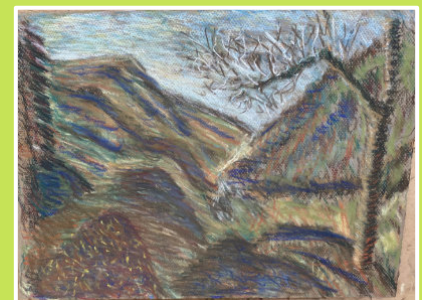
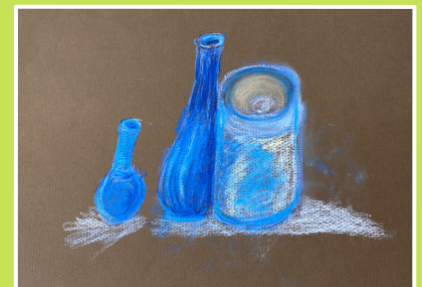
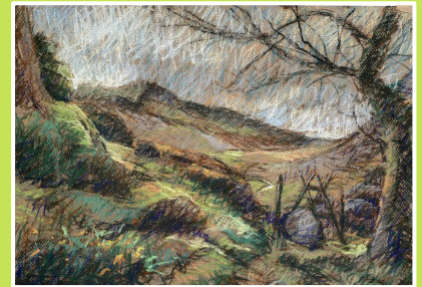
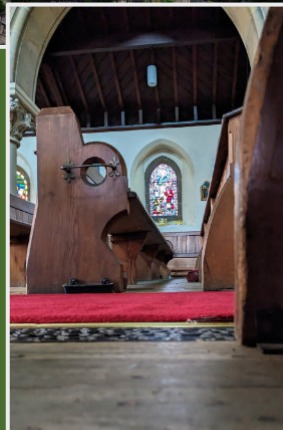
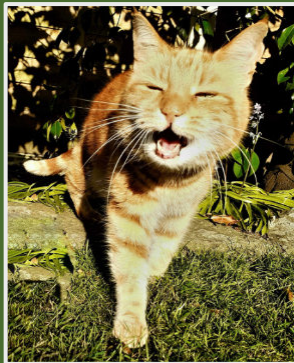




Photo 1 were challenged to submit photos taken as close to the ground as possible this month.

The results are a great testament to the imagination of the group members.



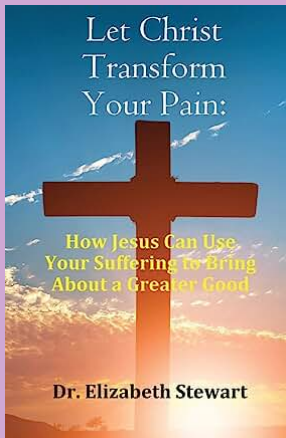


HOW WELL DO YOU KNOW LANCASHIRE



learn,
laugh,
live

- 1 Camilla Cabello, Pierce Brosnan and James Corden were in Blackpool recently, filming for which Disney remake?
a) Sleeping Beauty b) Mulan c) Cinderella d) Beauty and the Beast
- 2 **In which Lancashire town was the Cooperative movement founded?**
- 3 What is used to top a Lancashire Hotpot?
- 4 **Which Lancashire city was the first in the UK to open a KFC?**
a) Preston b) Lancaster
- 5 Which Mill in Lancashire was featured in the Oscar-winning film, 'The King's Speech'?
a) Queen Street Mill b) Helmshore Mills
- 6 **Preston is home to Europe's largest what?**
a) Roundabout b) Bus Station c) Train station
- 7 How long is the stretch of the infamous Blackpool Illuminations?
a) 5.5 miles b) 6.2 miles c) 4.8 miles
- 8 **If you were to paint Blackpool Tower, it would take roughly 7 years True or False**
- 9 The 'Lancashire Rose' was originally pink, but changed to red in 1832
True or False
- 10 **Which TV phenomenon was filmed at Hoghton tower last year?**
a) Peaky Blinders b) The Crown c) Sherlock d) Luther
- 11 Yvette Fielding, presenter of Most Haunted, claimed this location was the scariest place she'd ever filmed - can you guess the location?
a) Lancaster Castle b) Samlesbury Hall c) Winter Gardens, Morecambe
d) Pendle Hill
- 12 **In Lancashire, what is Christmas cake often eaten with?**
- 13 What type of dancing was performed by the Eight Lancashire Lads, a troupe Charlie Chaplin joined before he was twelve?
- 14 **Blackpool opened the world's first electric street tramway True or False**
- 15 Which infamous event took place at St Peter's Field, Manchester, in 1819, when cavalry charged into a large crowd?



Elizabeth Stewart's new book is called "Let Christ Transform Your Pain: How Jesus Can Use Your Suffering to Bring About a Greater Good" and explains the Catholic teaching on offering up your suffering. If we offer our sufferings to Christ, then He is able to take them and transform something evil into something good. Our willingness to accept the daily pains that life brings, both physical and emotional, can bring us contentment and even joy in the knowledge that we are actually doing something to help others. In this process our own pain may also be greatly alleviated.

u3a member Dr. Elizabeth Stewart is a writer and counsellor who suffered a serious traffic accident in 1983 that left her partly paralysed, in constant pain and virtually unable to walk. While in hospital she read St Therese's autobiography, "The Story of a Soul", which explains the Catholic teaching about suffering. Since then, Dr Stewart has used this practice to help her cope

with her own pain and disability and to help others do so.

Her book is available on Amazon and in bookstores.

It is priced at £8.82 for the paperback edition, which is available on Amazon Prime, and at £2.37 for the Kindle edition.

Dr Stewart is also the author of "A Raging Thirst", her own autobiography, which is also available on Amazon. She has been a member of Southport u3a for several years, and plays in Yooks!, the u3a ukulele group.

She was formerly a full-time journalist in England and America and her articles have appeared in various newspapers and magazines, including "The Atlanta Journal," "The Atlanta Constitution", "The Guardian" and "The Universe", under the byline of her maiden name, Elizabeth Mangan.



SOAPY SMITH

At the June Christ Church meeting we were entertained by 'Fools Gold', talented duo, Carol and Steve Robson who play and sing contemporary folk. They gave us the humorous version of the tale of Jefferson Randolph Smith II, better known as **Soapy Smith**, a hugely successful scam artist and gangster in the American frontier, famous for being the most well-known con man of the 1800s.

A charismatic character, once wealthy and privileged, his family had lost their fortune in the American Civil War so our man turned his skills to fleecing the public of their dollars. He operated clever lucrative 'rackets' in the American West for decades, by organising groups of bunko men into gangs that operated swindling card games.

His first fraud was his 'prize soap racket' in which he would sell bars of soap with \$10 notes hidden in some packets, but only his bunko men, hidden in the crowd would win them, hence the name **Soapy Smith**. Later he moved on to more ambitious scams that included fake stock exchanges, lottery offices and bogus diamond exchanges. He created a criminal empire, but kept the authorities sweet with payoffs and charity donations and soon became a wealthy man.

But crime doesn't always pay and he came to a sticky end, he was fatally shot at the tender age of 37, he had made plenty of enemies but his assassin was unknown. It was a great rendition and we all had a jolly good sing-along at the end.





WIGAN JAZZ INTERNATIONAL FESTIVAL

13th - 16th JULY

2023

learn,
laugh,
live

Final reminder

for the Jazz Group July gig - 3 concerts as flyer below

We only need 6 more bookings to complete our party

A great day out and some brilliant music

**To book please ring me (01704 643835) or email
(matthewsjazz@sky.com).**

To pay - via website by card or Paypal. By cheque (payable Southport U3A) with SAE to below address. Or by cash or cheque at Jazz Desk U3A meeting Thurs July 6th [closing date for gig].



**Jazz Group
"away day"
Sunday July 16**

Destination

WIGAN INTERNATIONAL JAZZ FESTIVAL (WIJF) 2023 at VILLAGE ON THE GREEN, ASPULL, WIGAN WN2 1PJ. THIS WILL BE THE 38th WIJF, (ONE OF EUROPE'S LONGEST RUNNING JAZZ FESTIVALS) UNDER THE ARTISTIC DIRECTIONSHIP OF Dr IAN DARRINGTON M.B.E.

Occasion

The final day of the 2023 WIJF 'weekend' which presents three concerts of high quality, contrasting styles with plenty time between gigs for refreshments and food.

Transportation

By CHARLTON MINICOACHES bus from and to Southport. Pick up 10.30 AM from the church car park on the corner of Lord St West and Duke St. The trip takes less than one hour. Return pick up at the festival venue at 11 pm to be back in Southport by midnight.

Catering

The Village on the Green venue has its own catering facilities which offer many choices of inexpensive simple high quality dishes. Our party will have reserved table seating for dinner and the music. Choose and pay for your own food selections.

Cost

£65 which includes tickets to all three concerts, reserved seating, coach fare and drivers' tip. This is a good value deal when you consider the listed ticket prices for the three concerts alone total £55. The cost is based on a party minimum of 20 Jazz Group members. We have had over 20 registering an interest in the event.

The Music

12.00 noon The Ben Holder Quartet

Ben possesses an innate sense of swing rhythm (something which often eludes classical players), breathtaking technical ability and true showmanship on stage. He offers flawless musicianship, heaps of energy and personality and a visible passion for his craft. <https://www.benholdermusic.co.uk>



(break for drinks and refreshments)

3.00 pm The Anchormen Jazz Orchestra

Anchormen Jazz Orchestra are Yorkshire's most dynamic and high energy big band, specialising in the unmistakable genre of big band swing. Leader and trumpet ROBERT STEELE <https://www.anchormenjazzorchestra.org.uk>



(break for dinner)

8.30 pm The James Morrison Quartet

James Morrison is known throughout the world for his sheer brilliance as a jazz musician and an all round entertainer. He is constantly on the move, touring everywhere and anywhere fine music has an audience. His recordings are bestsellers and James works with the cream of the world's best performers. Ray Brown called him "The Genius" but Wynton Marsalis said it best: "Man, James Morrison can play!" <https://www.jamesmorrisonmusic.com>



To book for this event post a cheque £65 p/p payable 'Southport U3A' + SAE to 1A Crosby Road Birkdale PR8 4SU or call at the Jazz Desk at U3A Christchurch meetings June 1st and 6th July. Also pay by card via our website. To reserve email matthewsjazz@sky.com or ring 01704 643835.

At the beginning of June the OYCZ group had a new pottery event at Fishfingers Creative Clay Studio.

7 members created different masterpieces!!!!

There was an owl and war memorial plaques, 2 sheds, 1 birdhouse and 2 Gonsks. These were left to dry out and then be fired. We will then return to glaze them.

Everyone had a great time making their own items while enjoying Victoria sponge cake!!!



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

Local History 1 spent a morning at Southport Lifeboat Station.

We were treated to a very interesting presentation from Elaine who told us about Southport Offshore Rescue Trust who provide a rescue service around the Sefton coastline.

They are independent of the RNLI who pulled out in 1925. Since being formed in 1988 their aim is to give their crew the best equipment possible to help save lives on our coastline.

Elaine outlined the History of the Lifeboat Service on our coast. In the 19th century Southport's coast was the busiest and most dangerous in the country. The Mexico disaster of 1886 was the highest loss of life in Lifeboat history.

14 crew members of the Southport's Lifeboat and 13 crew members of the St Anne's lifeboat died.

It was Kath Wilson who founded the Southport Offshore Rescue Trust in 1987 after Geoff, her son, lost his life while out fishing with friends. Kath has worked tirelessly, opening a charity shop in Birkdale and organising many charity events to make this dream come true. She was recently recognised for this when she received the Pride of Sefton Award.

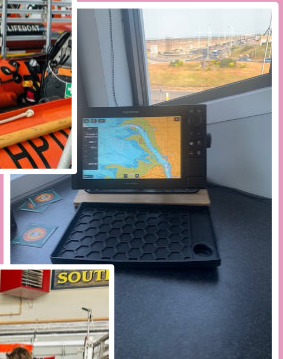
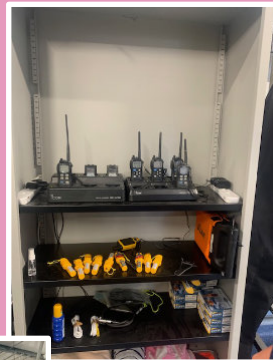
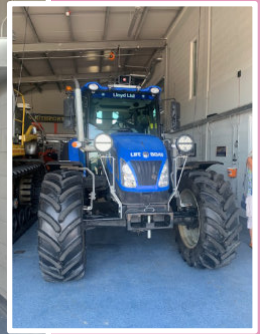
Following the audio visual presentation our guides went on to show us the equipment currently being operated out of Southport including two lifeboats, three quad bikes, a modified Tom Holland tractor, and a very impressive CAT for towing the lifeboats out to sea. Recently drones have been added to their assets and they have been tasked to many of their emergency callouts, especially in the search for missing casualties.

This kit requires a great deal of maintenance, skill and expertise to maintain and much of this is done by themselves. Due to the corrosive nature of salt water, the crew can spend between one and two hours washing down the boat and vehicle.

You might think that launching a lifeboat off Southport beach is a relatively simple operation, but the crew have to take account of the tides, the weather, the sandbanks, the mud, the channels and the wrecks. It is a complex operation and is coordinated by the coastguard.

The crew commit their time and efforts freely and receive no payment at all. In fact they had been out doing mud training the night before our tour and didn't finish until 10 o'clock.

The dedication and commitment of the crew, who are non judgemental, was very apparent. We are so lucky to have them.



Local History 1 recently had a most enjoyable visit to The Palm House in Sefton Park.



When we arrived we were served refreshments which were most welcome on a rather hot day.



Pauline and Naomi our guides gave us an excellent potted history of the building which was opened in 1896 after Henry Thompson gave a

generous gift to the people of Liverpool to design and build a temperate Winter garden. The great glass dome was filled with exotic plants from around the World.



In 1939 during the horrific blitz bombing of the Second World War the Palm House was reduced to shattered ruins. However, in the 1950's the glass was replaced and the Palm House opened again.



By the 1980's with limited funds for repairs the Palm House became a rusty skeleton. We heard how a successful bid in 2000 to the Heritage Lottery fund saw the Palm House restored, replanted and reopened.

Our guides walked us around the octagonal outside of the Palm House where we saw the four bronze and four marble statues, but instead of being of Kings and Queens they were of influencers of their time in botanical studies and discoverers. These included Christopher Columbus, Captain Cook and Charles Darwin.

We also saw the beautiful bronze statue of Peter Pan gifted to the children of Liverpool. This is one of seven cast from the original mould and located around the world.

After our visit I am sure we could all reflect and say that Sefton Park Palm House is part of our national heritage and one of the great conservatories of our country.



The Let's Go group recently toured the Mersey Queensway Tunnel. In fact it was so popular we ran 2 separate tours over 2 days -

Really interesting and informative tours given by our genial guides Joe & Phil on what in its day was a marvellous feat of civil engineering.

The Queensway Tunnel or Birkenhead Tunnel as it is known locally was started in 1924 and took 9 years to build and at just 2 over miles it is the longest road tunnel in the UK

The Tours started in the Georges Dock Building, the largest of 6 ventilation shafts, this attractive building is Grade 2 listed. It contained offices, the HQ for the Tunnel Police and the location of the former Control Room which is on the 5th floor and up 180 steps - where our tour began. Still in use just 8 years ago.

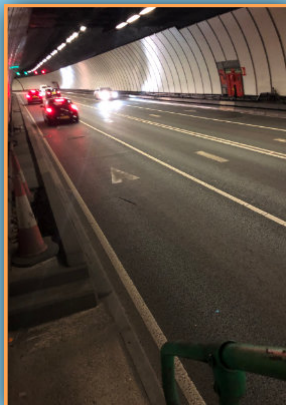
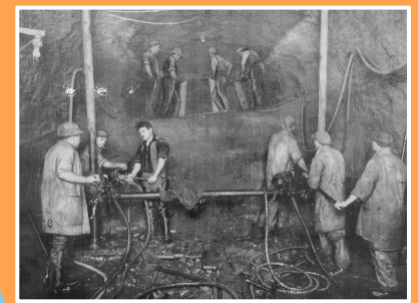
Then all the way down below street level for a demonstration of the huge ventilation fans, started up especially for the tour once the huge sliding doors had been opened.

All of the area where this building sits and the rest of the Pier Head complex sit in what was Georges Dock and we were able to walk through a small tunnel under Brunswick Street to see part of the Georges Dock Limestone wall and 17 arches that run under the street towards the river. This area suprisingly still floods as the Mersey rises & falls.

Then it was to the main Tunnel itself where there is a small viewing platform at the end of one of the escape routes.



Some shots of the original tunnel digging





COACH TRIPS VISIT TRENTHAM GARDENS

learn,
laugh,
live



After all the beautiful weather we have been having, we could be forgiven for being a bit apprehensive about our coach trip to Trentham gardens. Why, you say?

Well as we left Southport the heavens opened up and rained continuously until we arrived. In fact it continued raining all day until just before we left - when the sun came out!



This could have been a washout, however, fortunately, the Gardens also incorporate a very extensive Outlet Village full of shops. So, as many entered the Gardens, just as many headed for the shops!!

Trentham Gardens were created in the 19th Century in the style of an Italian Garden, with very rigidly laid out formal beds, trees and paths. They also incorporate a very large lake with many trails to follow all the way round it.



One of the features are a large number of very ornate fairy statues created in metal and adorning large stone plinths around the whole site.

However, for some of our numbers the highlight of the day was definitely the shops!!



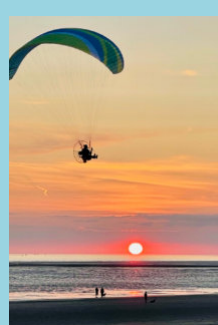
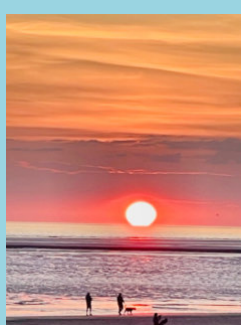


- | | |
|-------------------------|-----------------------------|
| 1 c) Cinderella | 9 False |
| 2 Rochdale | 10 a) Peaky Blinders |
| 3 Sliced Potatoes | 11 d) Pendle Hill |
| 4 a)Preston | 12 Cheese |
| 5 a) Queen Street Mill | 13 Clog dancing |
| 6 b) Bus Station | 14 True |
| 7 b) 6.2 miles | 15 The Peterloo Massacre |
| 8 True | |

MEET & EAT GOES GREEK IN WATERLOO

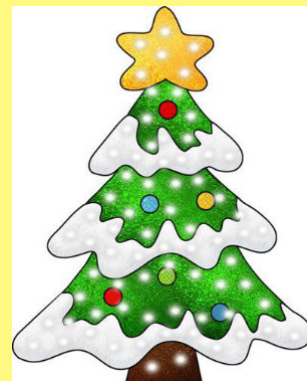


Meet & Eat made a welcome return on two nights this month to The Greek Taverna in Waterloo. This was one of the very early restaurants we visited when we first started up the M&E Group. Needless to say, the food was as great as ever - and plentiful - with the exception of myself, who managed to get a minuscule portion of Tuna Salad as a starter - much to the amusement of the others!! For some strange reason they decided to put as all on one long table. Following the meal some members went down to watch the sunset





Save the Date



Christmas is on its way & it's time to make plans for the festivities.

Christmas Party at Christ Church.

The church can only accommodate 300 folks, it was so popular last year, that some people were disappointed when they couldn't get in. So, this year we will have **two parties** on two separate dates **Thursday 7th December** and **Thursday 14th December**, admission will be by ticket only, you can only pick one date!



Tickets will be available at Christ Church from September. Your ticket number will be in the draw for our fabulous hampers so you must bring it with you.

Christmas Lunch at The Grand 5*



This will be on Tuesday 5th December, cost £34 pp for a delicious three course menu and some very exciting entertainment. 200 Tickets will be available from September, you can book and pay online or at the Christ Church Meeting.