

The Drama group will be performing their annual panto which this year is "The Search for Cinderella", at St James Church, Lulworth Road.

There are three performances:

- Friday 9th Feb @7.30pm
- Saturday 10th Feb @ 7.30pm
- Sunday 11th Feb @2.30pm.



Tickets cost £6 and include refreshments. They are available via the [Open Events page](#) on the website and on sale at February's u3a meeting. Remember, if you want to book online you first need to log in to our membership system.

Our very successful Drama group is currently full and we now have a number of members keen to form a second Drama group.

The group will need several skills – performers, backstage assistants, help with costumes etc, etc.

Our existing Drama group have a lot of fun enjoying what they do and giving several live performances a year much to the delight of our members. If you are interested in joining this new group, please get in touch with me - Dawn Oldfield, Group Activities Co-ordinator, at [groups@southportu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@southportu3a.org.uk), or at one of our monthly meetings in Christ Church.

Kind regards

Dawn Oldfield



Our [Beginner's Bridge](#) group recently celebrated the birthday of member, Diane.



Brian Mitchell would like us to pass on a very big thank you from him, to all of those members who made the Outside Your Comfort Zone group a big success, by participating in the events.



The group is now closed but similar events will occasionally be run under the [Out And About](#) group.



The [CYCLING for FUN](#) group has had a reasonable response after the decision to recommence its outings and fully expect to start their excursions in March with a shorter ride weather permitting.

We will be making emailing those who have enrolled in the coming weeks

Rides are ridden at a leisurely pace, usually between 10 & 15 miles long with a refreshment / comfort stop along the way which are on cycle tracks or paths & minor roads where possible.

Previously the group went out fortnightly on a set weekday but now it is intended to not only vary the day of the week but also the duration between rides.

Anyone who may be interested and has not yet registered can do so on the group link above, or by contacting either George Blanchard (07599 443996) or Derick Oldfield (07902 196149) with any other enquiries.

**Important: Please note that the book stall will not be at our February meeting, due to the space being required for renewals. Normal service will resume in March.**



## SOUTHPORT U3A – A SEVEN YEAR PERSPECTIVE

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laugh,  
live

I was approached by the Southport u3a Chair – Brenda Jones, and asked if I would like to take over the Membership Secretary role from Brian Tyler, who was due to retire. I agreed.... Little did I know!!!!

The membership (1100) was held as an Excel spreadsheet on Brian's computer and the whole membership process was based around Brian's excellent computer skills.

My first shock was arriving at Brian's house with my wife, Yvonne, to be welcomed by a huge pile of envelopes sent in for renewal. At that time all correspondence was by letter and all payment was by cash or cheques. An enormous amount of administration. So, the four of us (with Brian's wife Jenny) spent hours handling all this mail on quite a few afternoons.

An average monthly meeting took 25-30 new members with all the administration that went along with it and each month a further 10+ would come by mail. All handled manually.

At about the same time, the Government was introducing GDPR rules to protect the dissemination of people's personal data. We were wide open!!! Our membership information was sitting on Brian's home computer with no automated way of backing it up. Because it was all on Excel, each of the Group Leaders kept a list of their members on their own personal computers. So, people's personal info was spread all over Southport! And there was no link between GLs and Brian's computer. As a Committee, we had no idea who was in each group. Something had to change!!

We decided to transfer to the Beacon system. This had been designed by u3a volunteers and was used by many u3as already. After the transfer, our membership was now held in one central place and GL's could only access their members through the system. It meant that GLs could use the system to manage their groups, to record money ready for banking. It also meant that we had a record of which members were in which group. And we were able to use the system to introduce online renewals each year. By the time we finished with Beacon we were over 50% of our membership renewing online. But it was rather clunky, and the software was old - and there were worries that the u3a would not continue supporting it.

So, two years ago we transferred to the Simple Membership System. This allowed us not only to renew online but also to take new members online. It also gave GL's much more control over the management of their groups. When they were running events, members could book directly. Other events could also be booked by members online. And in all cases members were able to pay by PayPal online. They could manage waiting lists when full. It also meant if a waiting list got too long we could start another group.

As we handle the renewals this year, I am fully expecting that 70-80% will renew online. I am handling less than 10% of new members manually, with the rest applying and paying online.

So, in seven years, the whole management of our u3a Membership has changed enormously. As has the actual membership which is now over 1800. Had we not used the opportunity to introduce all this technology I would be swamped by a mountain of paperwork.

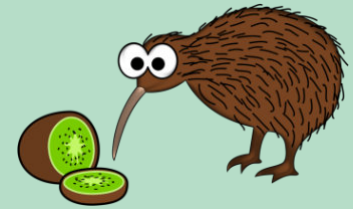
And this has been reflected in the whole way that the u3a has changed with the times over this same period. When I first started, 25% of 1100 members did not have the internet. Now, less than 5% of the 1800 have no internet access. Our members are enjoying unprecedented enlargement of group activities and events all of which can be accessed and paid for very easily. And this is supported by the combination of website, daily news, newsletters and magazines which are being produced to keep our members up to date with all the things that are happening. We are now a much more streamlined and modern organisation able to offer a terrific range of opportunities to our members.

I have been proud to be part of this enormous development of our u3a here in Southport and now I am able to hand over to Roger Haigh and Anne Rushton who are taking over the baton. My thanks go to all our members for all the help and support they have given me over the years.

**JIM HAY**



1. By what name do we know dried plums
2. Which fruit shares its name with the National bird of New Zealand
3. Who directed the 1971 movie "A Clockwork Orange"



4. What is the principle ingredient of the Mexican dish Guacamole
5. To which family does the Shaddock fruit belong
6. Which Brazilian actress and singer made a habit of wearing hats adorned with exotic fruits

7. What colour is the rind on an Edam cheese
8. What type of meat is generally used to make a Moussaka



9. What is the main ingredient in a Rosti
10. Which type of fruit is often served "belle helene"
11. In which country did Pecorino cheese originate
12. If something is cooked "au gratin" what ingredient will it contain
13. What is added to whisky to make the liqueur Drambuie



14. Which celebrity chef was credited with removing "Turkey twizzlers" from school dinners
15. Which two types of cheese are layered in a Huntsman cheese
16. Which fruit would you associate with the Wimbledon tennis championship



17. In which part of France does the spirit Calvados originate
18. Which herb is generally used to make a Pesto
19. Which food item is sold in London's Billingsgate market

20. What type of meat would you make a "Cock-a-leekie" soup



**u3a**  
Southport

Which has updated their scam alert page with the latest ones for which you should be on the lookout.

[Click here to view the scam alert page.](#)

On that page you can also sign up to be notified weekly of new scams.



The u3a Festival takes place between 18<sup>th</sup> and 20<sup>th</sup> July, in York. According to their website 'members will be running a wide variety of activities - talks, sporting events, musical entertainment and workshops which will make this u3a national festival something to remember.'

If you would like more information, [click here to visit the page.](#)

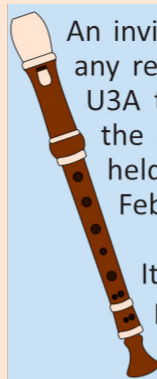


When the popular Let's Go and OYZ groups closed, we promised you that we would make sure that the types of events provided by them would still be available.

We're happy to be able to announce the opening of our new group '[Out And About](#)'. Jim Hay will be leading the group, with events run by any Southport u3a members who fancy doing something.

Planning of 2024 events is already well underway and lots of ideas are being investigated.

If you would like to join the group, click on the link above and register. If you have an idea for an event you would like to run, please contact Jim via [outandabout@southportu3a.org.uk](mailto:outandabout@southportu3a.org.uk), or via the group page email function.



An invitation has been issued for any recorder playing member of U3A to join other players from the Region on a PlayDay to be held in Liverpool on the 24th February.

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live**

It will be led by professional conductor/player Andrew Collis, and is open to all players of intermediate standard, or above, whether or not they are in a U3A recorder group.

It is preferable that players can play an alternative to descant. Please inform Helen upon booking.

Cost is £25 cash on the day. Tea and coffee will be provided, bring own lunch, instrument and music stand.

All enquiries to Helen Law at [helenlew1962@outlook.com](mailto:helenlew1962@outlook.com)

The event is at the Quaker House, School Lane, L1 3BT - a short walk from Central Station, although parking is available on application.

Times 10.00 tea/coffee to start at 10.30

Finishing at 17.15 - an hour for lunch

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## Spring Quiz

Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> March 2024  
At:- Fleetwood Hesketh Club  
Fylde Road  
Southport  
PR9 9XH

Arrive 7pm  
for 7.30pm start

Includes:- Hotpot Supper & Raffle

**Cash Prizes**

Tickets £9  
Enrol & Pay online  
OR from Neil Mc Millan at the monthly meeting  
Or Tel. 07802516488

Southport u3a  
**Mad Hatters Tea Party  
& Dance**

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> May 2024**

**2:00 - 5:30pm**

**In the Princess Grace Suit at  
The Grand, Lord Street**

**£25 pp**

**Join us in Wonderland for another  
day to remember.**

**Be a little mad, dance  
into Spring & enjoy a**

**sumptuous afternoon tea.**

**Booking & tickets will be  
available from March**



WE'RE ALL MAD HERE





# LOCAL HISTORY 1 CELEBRATE CHRISTMAS AT CLOUDS



Local History 1 took 60 of it's members to Clouds Restaurant at Southport College on 11th January for a festive Christmas meal. The food was all delicious .....  
With lots of clean plates...and mince pies to follow with tea or coffee.  
A quiz was done by the illustrious Jean and all 7 tables had a go.....getting people to chat, laugh and think  
The winning table got a scratch card each and they had a winner for that!!!!  
Next year's meal is pencilled in with The college already.



# "A HAPPY NEW YEAR"

I had a pleasant surprise at the New Year when Sharon Partington sent me a very nice Jacquie Lawson e greeting card.

At the end of it was a list of the New Year traditions that are practised around the world. I thought you may like to hear about a few.



## ICELAND

*Iceland has particularly fantastical happenings at New Year: cows gain the ability to talk, elves move their houses, seals take on human form and the dead rise from their graves. Spooky!*



## SOUTH AFRICA

*As a dramatic representation of the adage 'out with the old and in with the new', residents in Johannesburg reject their unwanted appliances at New Year by throwing them out of the window.*



## SPAIN

*Many Spanish and Latin-American people secure a happy New Year by eating grapes in time with the twelve chimes of the clock at midnight.*



## CHINA

*In China, a freshly painted red front door is seen as a symbol of happiness and good fortune for the coming year.*



## TURKEY

*Turkish people welcome the New Year by opening their front doors and sprinkling salt on their doorsteps; a tradition that is thought to bring peace and abundance.*



## COLOMBIA

*A strange choice for the Colombians on New Year's Eve: they can either carry around a suitcase with them all day; or they can simply peel three potatoes!*



## DENMARK

*Danes wish their neighbours a happy and prosperous New Year by smashing plates on their doorsteps. The more smashed crockery to clear up, the more auspicious the start of the year!*



## GREECE

*The Greeks see the onion as a symbol of rebirth for the coming year and they will hang one on the front door of their house on New Year's Eve. Parents then wake their children the next morning by tapping them on the head with the same onion.*



## CZECH REPUBLIC

*Some people read tea leaves – and the Czechs read apples. The prediction for the New Year comes from the close examination of the core of a freshly cut apple.*

# Walking Group 4 In 2023

Our walking groups were all busy last year and Walking Group 4 have supplied us with a collection of photos from their outings, as a memento.





## Brain of Mensa

A little bit of reflected glory, perhaps, for Southport U3A.

One of our members, Clare Coventry, has reported that her husband, John, won the 'Brain of Mensa 2023' title towards the end of last year.

The Brain of Mensa is a prestigious, general knowledge quiz, open to all members of Mensa, the high-IQ society. It is run along the lines of the BBC's Brain of Britain quiz and has been operating for over 30 years on an annual basis.

Mastermind and Brain of Britain winners have featured on its roll of honour, so John is delighted to have joined such august company.

John lectures regularly aboard cruise ships and, in fact, has done a presentation for Southport U3A in the past.

Congratulations are in order and we hope to see John presenting again to Southport U3A.



In 2023, we ran a 'Spring Into Action' initiative, suggesting ideas for new groups and inviting members to give something back to your u3a by volunteering to help run them.

The initiative was such a success we are doing it again this year. All voluntary organisations, such as ours, depend for their survival on members getting involved. We are lucky to have so many volunteers, but we always need and welcome more. Watch out for the details and have a think about what you would like to do to help.



## **FOOD, GLORIOUS FOOD** **ANSWERS**



1. Prunes
2. Kiwi
3. Stanley Kubrick
4. Avocado
5. Citrus
6. Carmen Miranda
7. Red
8. Lamb
9. Potatoes
10. Pears
11. Italy
12. Cheese
13. Honey (herbs and spices)
14. Jamie Oliver
15. Double Gloucester and Stilton
16. Strawberries (and cream)
17. Normandy
18. Basil
19. Fish
20. Chicken

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Southport u3a are looking for a new Business Secretary, to join our committee.

If you are interested and would like to discuss the role please use our [contact form](#) to get in touch with one of the committee members.



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live



Enrico

Thomaso and associates,  
entertaining the Jazz group recently at the Southport Bijou  
Cinema. See below for future Jazz events.



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### SOUTHPORT BRANCH JAZZ GROUP

**u3a**  
Southport

#### SPRING '24 JAZZ SEASON AT 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 the S&BSC and Totally D'Vine Catering

**TICKETS £25 (includes supper)**

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

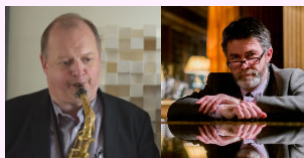
#### MONDAY MARCH 11th ADAM GLASSER QUARTET



**Adam Glasser**  
harmonica & keyboard  
**Anthony Ormesher** guitar  
**Steve Berry** double bass  
**Dave Walsh** drums

South African born London based jazz harmonica wizard Adam first wowed us in Southport at our 2007 Jazz on a Winter's Weekend. I met up with him again at Scarborough JF last September and was again knocked out with his fluency on harmonica and piano and his mix of U.S./European & S. African jazz. You will love both.

#### MONDAY APRIL 8th ALAN BARNES & DAVID NEWTON



**Alan Barnes** saxes & clarinet  
**David Newton** keyboard

Two world renowned British jazz musicians whose musical roots go back to time spent together on the very first ever UK jazz course at the Leeds College of Music. Both have developed international careers through touring, festivals, club appearances and extensive recording, predominantly on the Woodville Records label, including several duo CD's. Both have played with many of the world's best known jazz greats. A joy to have them back in Southport with a new duo CD in the offing. Together they are just magic.

#### MONDAY MAY 13th LIAM BYRNE QUINTET



**Liam Byrne** saxes  
**Jamie Brownfield** trumpet  
**Andy Hulme** (guitar)  
**Tom Kincaid** keyboard  
**Ed Harrison** double bass

You may recall tonight's horn duo from several well appreciated gigs at our Boulevard West venue as *Brownfield Byrne Trio*. Liam has extended the line up to quintet to add depth to the brilliant and intricate arrangements of classic jazz compositions from the masters of the 20th century popular music golden age such as Duke Ellington, Gershwin, Cole Porter and Irving Berlin.

#### TO 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 our U3A website.

**MAXIMUM AUDIENCE NUMBERS 70 EACH GIG**

#### THE VENUE SERVICES

D'Vine Catering will serve a delicious supper including special dietary needs if you specify when booking. (menu details to follow)

Ever welcoming and friendly S&BSC bar staff will be on hand to provide wines, spirits, real ales and continental lagers and beers all evening.

