

Another volcano has started erupting in Iceland. A fissure eruption started on Sunday night and a live webcam has been trained on the location. Click [HERE](#) to view the webcam, but don't expect to be able to read the text unless you speak Icelandic.



With things looking like getting back to normal Jean, Myra and I (Helen) have started making plans, beginning locally and outdoors.....

KINGS GARDENS - Thursday 22nd April at 12 noon - Meet, Greet and Catch up PICNIC. Bring your own refreshments (or purchase locally) and your own seat. We will adhere to regulations and sit in groups of 6.

We look forward to seeing lots of you again or for the first time!

If you want to join us and find out what we are about, and planning, please register via Beacon local history e mail with your name, contact number and membership number.

Looking forward excitedly to seeing everyone
JEAN, MYRA and HELEN

census 2021

Sunday 21st March was the deadline for completing this year's census, I hope you all managed to get it done.

Did you know that, since the census started in 1801, the only time it has not been taken since then was in 1941, due to the 2nd World War.

Following the item about exercise machines being used for anything but exercise, Patricia Gaskell sent me this photo of her Exercise Walker doubling as a clothes airer. Well done for your honesty Pat!

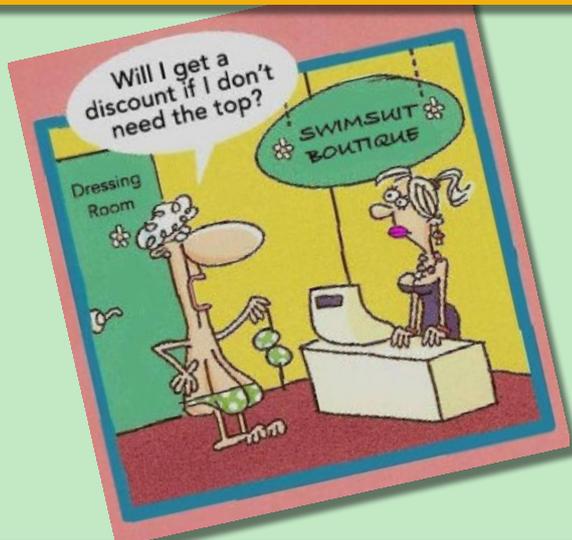


If you want to stop your children/ grandchildren (or yourself) chewing gum, maybe you should show them this video of how it is made.

Click [HERE](#) to watch it.

I received an email from Tricia Caton at the weekend, which has possibly the most poetic complement the newsletter has ever been given! Tricia described it as "a warm fire on a rainy day", how good is that! Thanks Tricia.

They do say that necessity is the mother of invention. Unfortunately, that necessity may be borne of war. Click [HERE](#) to watch a video about how a tank forced the design of a new type of bridge.





The book group used to meet once a month in each other's house to discuss the book selected for that month. Once lockdown started at the end of March 2020 we could no longer meet or get books from the library

We decided to meet via zoom. However as we were reading avidly during lockdown we decided to zoom every week to talk about the books we had read that week (yes, I did say books) We thought members might be interested in some of our favourite reads in the past twelve months.

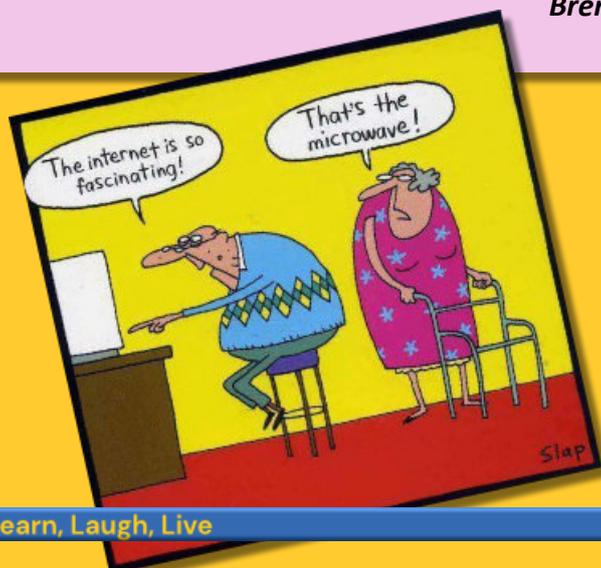
There are two books that every member loved and would highly recommend are To kill a mocking bird by Harper Lee and Where the crawdads sing by Delia Owens.

Also Girl, woman other by Bernadine Evaristo, Salt path by Reynor Win, Whispering shadows by JenPhilipp Sendker, Cutting for stone by AbrahamVerghese and lots of books by David Baldacci, Michael Connolly and the China series by Peter May.

As a relief from constant reading we also watched and recommended some films.

A really good film is A United Kingdom a true story set in Botswana, The Queens Gambit, Master and Commander, Lion, and a trilogy of films A life of a mountain Helvelkan, Blencathra and Scafell Pike. Hope you take us up on these recommendations

Brenda



If you like walking, mountains, estuaries, oh yes and low flying jets, you may already know about 'The Mach Loop'. This is a series of valleys, between Dolgellau and Machynlleth, used by the RAF for low level flight training.

The '[Precipice Walk](#)' starts near Dolgellau and not only gives beautiful views of the Mawddach Estuary but also skirts one of the valleys used by the RAF fly boys. There are loads of websites about this area, click [HERE](#) for a good place to start.

If you want a taster, or just want to see them from your armchair, click [HERE](#).

A German Shepherd, a Doberman, and a cat died.

In heaven, all three faced God, who wanted to know what they believed in.

The German Shepherd said, "I believe in discipline, training, and loyalty to my master."

"Good!" said God. "Sit at my right side."

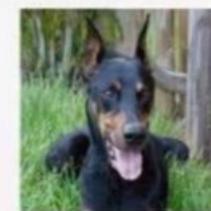
"Doberman, what do you believe in?" asked God.

The doberman answered, "I believe in the love, care, and protection of my master."

"Aha," said God. You may sit to my left."

Then God looked at the cat and asked, "And what do you believe in?"

The cat replied, "I believe you are sitting in my seat."



WALKING GROUP 4 HOLIDAY TO SLOVENIA JULY 1 to 8, 2018

Our base for the week in Slovenia was the Park Hotel, Bled.



Julian Alps. After circumnavigating the lake, we returned to the village to visit the best tea, coffee, cake shop in Slovenia.

Lake Bled is a real gem of a place just within the Triglav National Park, named after the highest mountain, Triglav, which is situated in the Julian Alps.

On Monday, on our walk round Lake Bled, we first climbed up to the view point of Straza returning by chair lift. We continued round the lake only to take a very steep and challenging ascent with safety ropes and 88 very steep steps to another view point, Osjonica with beautiful views of the lake. A difficult descent was then made to the lake which we followed back to the hotel.

A local bus was taken on Tuesday to the alpine village of Stara Fuzina with its flower decked houses. The objective today was to visit the Voje Valley and Slap (waterfall) Mostnica in the national park. The route took us through the 2 kilometre long



Mostnica gorge where the river had carved a narrow gorge up to 20m deep in some places with the side's only shoulder width apart. The Voje valley is used for pasture farming and is at an altitude of just over 700m with a welcome café at the end close to the 21m high waterfall.

Wednesday was a free day with half the group visiting the capital Ljubljana whilst the others remained in Bled, either walking round the lake or visiting the castle.

On Thursday we travelled by bus to Kranjska Gora, a lovely alpine village on the eastern flanks of the National Park. Here the high mountain peaks are very close to the village. We had a short walk to the beautiful Lake Jasna with its brilliant green colour and set in the bowl of the

A bus journey on Friday was made to Slap Savica (at the heart of the National park). Most of the group climbed the 550 steps to view the two part waterfall which is at 900m altitude at its base and has drops of 80m and 25m. After lunch at the café we walked to Lake Bohinj for a short break before a 2 hour return walk along the lake path to Ribcev Laz for the return bus.

On our final walk on Saturday, we visited the Vintgar Gorge which had only just reopened after tremendous storm damage and there was evidence of this where trees had fallen into the green glacial river. The gorge itself is a delightful place to walk along the man made walkways and across bridges, and is very narrow in places. The gorge ends at the waterfall Slap Sum. Leaving the gorge, a rather steep

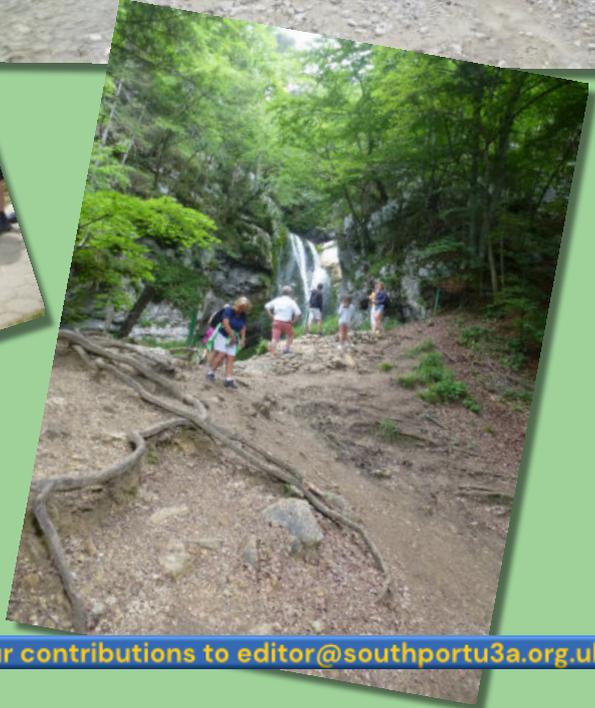
ascent took us to a café close to St Katarina's Church when some of the group sampled the famous Bled cream cake. We returned to Bled via the village of Zasip, built on a very steep slope.

We finally left Bled at 5am on Sunday morning for the early return flight to Manchester. Many comments were made about the beauty of Lake Bled and this area of Slovenia, and it was a pity that we had to leave Slovenia having thoroughly enjoyed our week's walking holiday.

The images on the following pages are from the walks round Lake Bled, the Vintgar Gorge near Bled, the Lake Bohinj walk, Stara fuzina area and Krinsja Gora

David Miley







Imagine finding something that is 95 million years old! Even the things lurking at the back of our larder cupboard are not that old! Click [HERE](#) to read about a recently discovered fossil and how it has changed the palaeontology timeline.



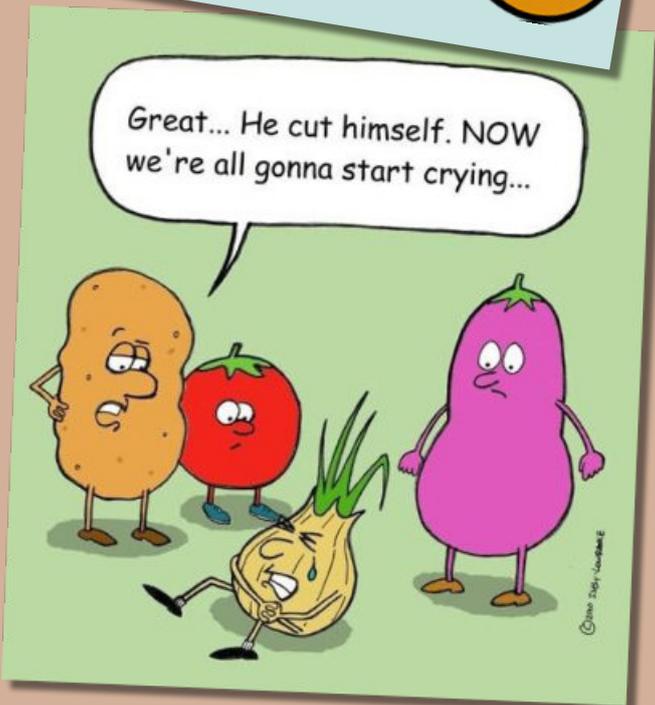
Explosions in TV and Films are always really impressive, but do they look like that in real life? Click [HERE](#) to find out.



We Brits are known for our ability to deal with most things, so why does snow cause us so many problems. Click [HERE](#) to see Michael McIntyre's take on it.



How many times have you taken a look at somewhere on Google Street View and ended up driving along the roads for a while, just being nosy? Well now you can explore to your heart's content, but starting from a random location, thanks to the Random Street View site. Click [HERE](#) to take a look.



With Easter fast approaching, it's time to choose your recipes and buy your ingredients! Click [HERE](#) for lots of ideas from BBC Good Food.



Quiz Answers (Admit it, you thought I had forgotten!)

1. HAMLET
2. RICHARD III
3. OTHELLO
4. JULIUS CEASAR
5. RICHARD III
6. MERRY WIVES OF WINDSOR
7. TWELFTH NIGHT
8. HAMLET
9. THE MERCHANT OF VENICE
10. TWELFTH NIGHT



Hot off the press! The Zoom talk this morning, by Fool's Gold, was attended by 61 people. It was an excellent mix of story and song, very professionally presented. Thanks to Steve Birchall for getting this for us. We hope to have a recording of the show and I'll put a link in the newsletter once it is ready.