

Welcome to April! Did you fall for any April Fool pranks this year? Maybe you hid in all day in case any meteorite fragments came down around your area?



Some historians speculate that April Fools' Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. In the Julian Calendar, as in the Hindu calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1.

People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognise that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called "April fools." These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as "poisson d'avril" (April fish), said to symbolise a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person.

If you did fall for a prank you are not on your own by a long way. Click [HERE](#) to read about the top 100 pranks of all time.

An Easter Message From The Chairman

Dear Members,

The sun is shining, the birds are singing and the flowers and blossoms are doing what they do best.

On behalf of the Committee may I thank you again for your support during these difficult times and hope that you all have a very happy Easter with your family and friends despite the restrictions.

Thanks are due to Andy Hay who designed the card for us.

Yours sincerely,

Paddy McNeish
Chair



If you are a Sefton resident you can get a discounted beach car park pass for Ainsdale beach. These are now available and can be purchased on line. Click [HERE](#) to visit the ordering page.



Those of you who were with us back at the start of lockdown will probably remember 'The Shows Must Go On', on YouTube. To mark the anniversary and because it is Easter, they are showing 'Jesus Christ Superstar' again.

The show is available from 7pm on Friday 2nd April, for 48 hours. You can watch it by clicking [HERE](#). There is no charge, though there are links to a couple of donation pages should you wish to donate to one of the charities being supported.

Some adverts are worth watching. If you don't believe me, click [HERE](#) for proof.



Recently, Vivianne Rowan gave members of the Egyptology group a talk about the Suez Canal. You can watch a recording of this talk (54 minutes) by clicking [HERE](#).

Me: "I am surprised
at how winded I am
by this exercise"

Personal Trainer:
"This was the tour
of the gym"

QUIZ

Famous Foursomes

1. The four islands that make up the Balearic Islands
2. The US Presidents depicted on Mount Rushmore
3. Events that make up the tennis Grand Slam
4. The four US States that border Mexico
5. The characters looking for The Wizard of Oz
6. The four Golf Majors
7. The members of TV's "The A Team"
8. The four MALE singing voice types



Saturday 3rd April 2021
Chelsea v West Brom
12:30 BT Sport

Leeds United v Sheffield United
15:00 Amazon Prime Video

Leicester City v Man City
17:30 Sky Sports

Arsenal v Liverpool
20:00 Sky Sports

Sunday 4th April 2021
Southampton v Burnley
12:00 Sky Sports

Newcastle United v Tottenham Hotspur
14:05 Sky Sports

Aston Villa v Fulham
16:30 Sky Sports

Man Utd v Brighton & Hove Albion
19:30 BT Sport

Monday 5th April 2021
Everton v Crystal Palace
18:00 Sky Sports

Wolves v West Ham United
20:15 Sky Sports



Walking Group 4 immediately took advantage of the new rule of six and several splinter groups got out this week



My final posting before leaving the Army was 36 Regt. Maidstone, Kent in 1965. My role was that of the Sergeant fitter with the responsibility for all of the plant a Regiment holds. We had a huge amount of bulldozers, graders, scrapers, excavators, generators, compressors and anything else they could throw at me. Of course I had a team of fitters and operators to carry out the various tasks I allotted them. It was a huge undertaking that was piled on my shoulders. The regiment was on 24 hour stand by to move anywhere in the world, this added to complications.

rear and was new to the Army. I, complete with the machine was dispatched to Instow in Devon to waterproof it for a beach landing. There were a group of us all doing waterproofing to various machines. We had to note down all materials we used so kits could eventually be assembled and issued should the machine have to do a beach assault. We had a group photo taken (I'm kneeling on the extreme right). Behind us is a BARV. (Beach Armoured Recovery Vehicle). This is a normal tank with a diver on board to help recover any vehicle that foundered.

Our introduction to the waterproofing course was the 'Baptismal Tank'. See photo of an obscured me driving a stripped down Land Rover with a colleague as passenger for our first taste of beach landings. You had to keep your foot hard down on the accelerator as the water tried to force it off the pedal, if this happened, you stalled and had to be rescued. It was no joke



Whenever a new vehicle or in our case machine entered



attempting to fasten a tow rope in six feet of water. The second picture is me driving the Michigan Tractor in about six feet of water for 20 minutes after I had waterproofed it. Once ashore you then had certain waterproofing bits to remove to ensure the machine could work. Each battery cap had a ventilation hole for the gases that ensued from charging and they had to be waterproofed. A dozen French Letters (Condoms) fastened over the caps protected the batteries. They were then discarded. What a waste! We must have used hundreds during our stay and not for the purpose they were invented for.

service it had to be capable of doing a beach landing from a ship and getting ashore. A Michigan 75DS was a bucket loader with a detachable excavator at the



As it is
Easter
weekend

I thought you may be interested to know the origin of some Easter traditions. For example, when and how did the chocolate Easter egg arrive in the UK.

There are a number of theories as to why eggs have become linked with Easter, some of which you can read about by clicking [HERE](#). That article also covers the introduction of chocolate eggs to the UK, but the Joseph Fry museum doesn't quite see it the same way, you can read their story [HERE](#).

The origin of the 'Easter Bunny' is also not clear cut. Click [HERE](#) to read one set of theories.

If you are interested to read how other countries celebrate Easter, click [HERE](#).



"My laser eye surgery was expensive but worth every penny."

Remember the space ships from our comics when we were children? Well it looks like they have arrived, in the form of the Virgin 'VSS Imagine'. Click [HERE](#) to read a short article about this extremely familiar looking spacecraft.



Colin Weir has sent the following information, provided by a physician friend. To many of us it will seem obvious, but it is worth taking note.

learn,
laugh,
live

One of the most common causes of mental confusion in the over 60s is dehydration. People over 60 generally stop feeling thirsty and consequently stop drinking fluids.

When no one is around to remind them to drink fluids, they quickly dehydrate. Dehydration is severe and affects the entire body. It may cause abrupt mental confusion, a drop in blood pressure, increased heart palpitations, angina (chest pain), coma and even death.

This habit of forgetting to drink fluids begins at age 60, when we have just over 50% of the water we should have in our bodies. People over 60 have a lower water reserve. This is part of the natural ageing process.

Although they are dehydrated, they don't feel like drinking water, because their internal balance mechanisms don't work very well.

So here are two alerts:

1) *Get into the habit of drinking liquids*. Liquids include water, juices, teas, coconut water, milk, soups, and water-rich fruits, such as watermelon, melon, peaches and pineapple; Orange and tangerine also work. The important thing is that, every two hours, you must drink some liquid.

2) Alert for family members: constantly offer fluids to people over age 60. At the same time, observe them.

If you realise that they are rejecting liquids and, from one day to the next, they are irritable, breathless or display a lack of attention, these are almost certainly recurrent symptoms of dehydration.



Easter Wordsearch

See if you can find all the Easter words in this wordsearch!
The words may be forwards, backwards and diagonal.

S	L	I	A	T	N	O	T	T	O	C	G	G	S	Y
T	P	E	R	N	D	L	I	D	O	F	F	A	D	F
C	A	R	T	E	O	D	C	R	A	F	T	L	L	B
H	T	A	I	V	S	I	L	W	T	O	H	O	S	Y
O	D	B	G	N	M	U	T	U	L	R	W	Q	N	E
T	N	B	E	H	G	T	R	A	D	E	T	N	K	L
C	S	I	L	N	L	R	F	R	R	P	U	L	E	L
R	T	T	I	S	W	O	I	S	E	B	I	T	R	O
O	C	Y	E	C	U	B	E	N	E	C	E	A	G	W
S	K	C	I	H	C	N	R	A	C	K	T	L	L	U
S	E	F	L	U	H	R	D	T	S	M	M	I	E	R
B	E	D	A	R	A	P	G	A	H	T	U	G	O	C
U	M	O	W	C	U	I	B	S	Y	G	E	I	O	N
N	E	F	L	H	U	N	T	C	E	O	F	R	W	S
S	G	G	E	O	H	E	T	A	L	O	C	O	H	C

Basket
Bunny
Celebration
Chicks
Chocolate

Church
Cotton tails
Craft
Daffodil
Easter

Eggs
Flowers
Hot cross buns
Hunt
Parade

Rabbit
Resurrection
Spring
Sunday
Yellow



ZOOM TALKS AT HOME

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<p>Wed 7th April at 2pm <i>Ladies of the Air, 'Grandma Flew Spitfires'</i></p>	<p>Thur 22nd April at 2pm <i>Wrecks of the Coast Southport</i></p>	<p>Thur 6th May at 2pm <i>Rivington Terraced Gardens</i></p>	<p>Thur 20th May at 2pm <i>Apitourism - travelling for bees</i></p>
<p>Thur 3 June at 2pm <i>John Dempsey, on the Sefton Coast</i></p>	<p>Thur 17th June at 10.30 <i>Telling time over the Centuries</i></p>	<p>Thur 1st July at 10.30 <i>The Seven Ancient & Modern Wonders of the World</i></p>	<p>Thur 15th July at 10.30 <i>Life of Sir Henry Segrave & the Land Speed Record attempt on Ainsdale Beach</i></p>

ACROSS

1. Half-pint
3. Sleepy
9. Sean Lennon's mom
10. Sneezy (phrase)
12. "___ apple a day ..."
14. Bloom of the Netherlands
16. Dopey
18. Grumpy
22. Happy
24. Cheap and showy
26. Physician's request
28. Doc
32. ___ Mahal
34. Bashful
35. Suitable

DOWN

1. Unsullied
2. Flower part
3. August baby, probably
4. Tic-___-toe
5. Hubbub
6. Monopoly starting space
7. Barefoot Food Network star
8. Communicate
11. Santa syllables
13. Clean with a cloth
15. Concise
16. Don Draper, for example
17. Unfit
19. Compatriot

20. What a swindler does
21. Young swan
23. Unusual
25. Pause mark
27. "So there!"
29. Forever and a day
30. Shakespeare classic: Richard ___
31. *Life of Pi* director Lee
33. *Dallas* villain

