



Newsletter 04-05-2021



The Royal Liverpool Philharmonic have taken their concerts online and a selection are available on their website. The 'on-demand' concerts are not free, but there is a special offer available until Wednesday 5th May.



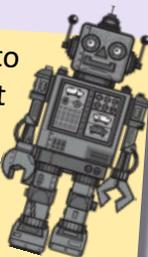
To mark the start of the on-demand concert series the Phil have made their performance of Beethoven's Symphony No 2 available on YouTube. Click [HERE](#) to watch that concert and click [HERE](#) to visit their website.

I found the following on the [Southport U3A Facebook group](#). Thanks to Ron Tate for publishing it.

 **Ronald Tate** ▸ Southport U3a 42 m • 📷

I wandered lonely as a cloud,
Two metres from the madding crowd, When all at once
my name was called To enter Waitrose hallowed hall.
This was the pensioners' special hour. I'd gone to get a
bag of flour.
But I forgot, when through the door, What I had gone to
Waitrose for.
The Waitrose staff are extra kind.
I told them it had slipped my mind. They asked what
else I had forgot They clearly thought I'd lost the plot.
I phoned my wife again to ask.
She reminded me of this special task:
"I need some flour to bake a cake
With all that cream you made me take."
"Ah yes, I recall." I had to lie.
I dared not ask what flower to buy But then I saw them
next the tills - A bunch of golden daffodils!"

If you have a fear that robots are going to take over the world, click [HERE](#) to at least partially allay those fears. Not all robots are cut out to be evil superpowers!



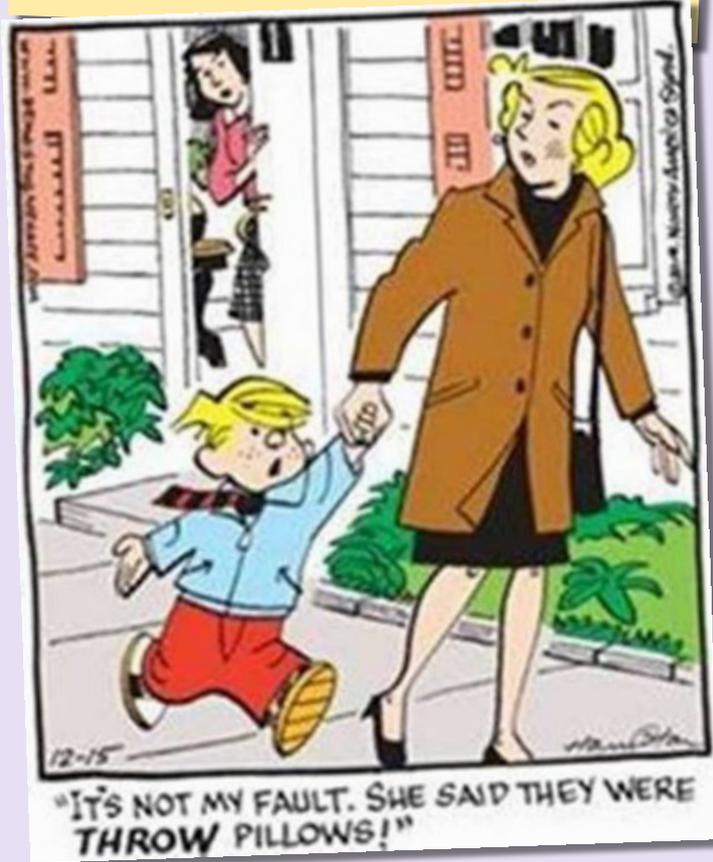
It is 35 years since the infamous nuclear accident at Chernobyl. For those of us who remember the news reports it's difficult to understand how things can live there. Click [HERE](#) to read about life in the area.



Who remembers Russ Abbott? One of his sketches which sticks in my mind was the Glaswegian Barrow Boy

(wassamarrerwithemarreronyerbarrerclara)

Click [HERE](#) to watch a more easily understood sketch.



Although I'm not a big fan of waking up at dawn there is the advantage of hearing our garden birds getting ready for the day. I'm not sure if I would feel the same if I was living on Gough Island! Click [HERE](#) to experience their dawn chorus.



If you read your books on an eReader you may be interested in '[The Fussy Librarian](#)'. You set up a profile with the types of books you like and it sends you a daily list of free and bargain books to get. Many of the free books lead into other stories from that author, which makes it a good way for new authors to become recognised.

I have been sent the following link by Vivienne Dent, who is a Trauma Therapist. The title of the video is 'The Best Mental Health Advice I've Ever Heard'. As one of the many things the U3A provide is 'connection' Viv believes it will be of interest to many of our members. Click [HERE](#) to watch the video.



How do ship's crew learn to navigate through the Suez Canal?

It isn't exactly something you can practice on the real thing. Click [HERE](#) to discover one method.

KING OF THE SHIRES.

Twenty hands tall they stood head high.
Washed and brushed coats out shone
Private grunts spit and polished boots.
Muscled power of dinosaur proportion.

Yet such gentle creatures, playful too,
not beyond nibbling at your hair as
you squeezed up the stall with fodder,
or a gentle squash against the side wall.

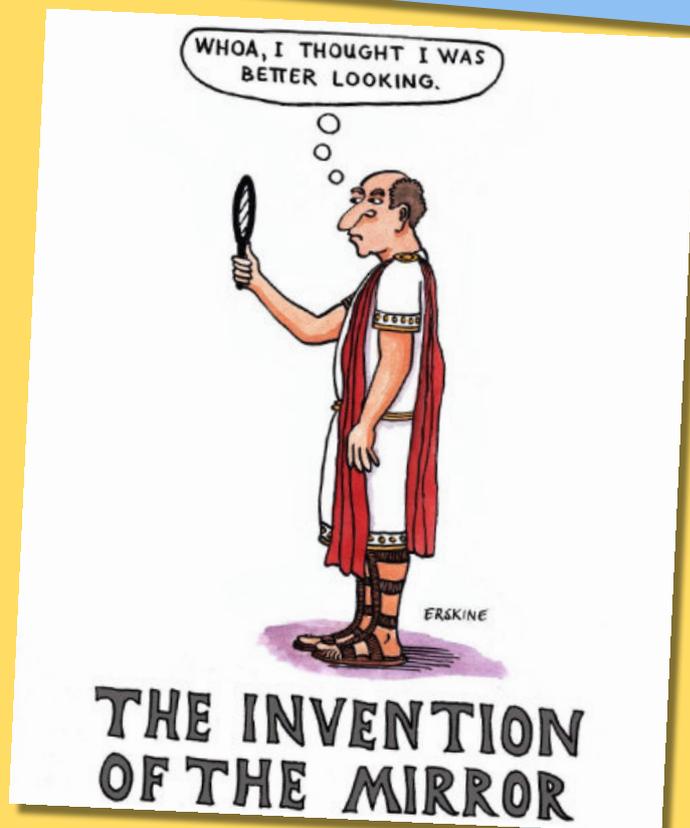
Plough, trailer, wagon, planter or harvester,
all the same to them. Straight furrows up
and down fields for potatoes sprits, black
ripples in wormed, dark, static fertile oceans.

Jays of a stable boy, inducted with a cap full of
horse manure; a bare back ride in the paddock,
holding the reins coming down from the Moss.
Brushing, feeding bedding down tired horses.

Then came the tractors and mechanisation.
Prince and Black Beauty put out to pasture.
One morning standing up was too difficult.
A single bolt shot and the pet food wagon.

Farewell.

Joe Forshaw



Danny MacAskill joins a gym! This video should be compulsory watching for all members of the cycle group. Click [HERE](#) to watch it.



Not wanting to totally ignore the technicians amongst our readership, here is one for your inner geek. Click [HERE](#) to watch a video about building a water computer.



Bill Bailey, comedian and musical maestro with a strange taste in hairstyles, lived in China for a while and tried learning Mandarin. Click [HERE](#) to hear his story about the experience.



Rivington Terraced Gardens - History & Restoration by Graham Gough

THURSDAY 6th MAY at 2pm



Rivington Terraced Gardens were created on a barren Lancashire hillside by the soap giant William Hesketh Lever (Lord Leverhulme) as a weekend retreat.

Sadly after Lord Leverhulme died the gardens fell into a slow decline and became overgrown and almost unrecognisable, but always a great area to walk through and speculate as to what it must have once looked like.



This talk tells a little of the Gardens' history and how recent efforts have been made to secure their future as a magical place for all.

Graham is a volunteer at RTG and vice chair of the Friends of Rivington Terraced Gardens



In 2016, Rivington Heritage Trust, as part of a partnership with Groundwork Cheshire Lancashire and Merseyside and United Utilities successfully secured £3.4 million in funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund as part of a three year £4.2 million restoration package to conserve and revitalise Rivington Terraced Gardens



DO YOU LIKE TO LINE DANCE? COULD YOU HELP RUN THE GROUP?

Our Line Dancing group is in need of a new leader.

June Jackson has stepped down as leader and we thank her for her valuable contribution to Southport U3A. however, Cyril Hollis, her deputy, cannot run the group on his own so we require a new group leader.

If you would like to get involved, or just want some more information, please [email Phil Watling](mailto:Phil.Watling@southportu3a.org.uk).

THE STATION MASTER'S HOUSE COMMUNITY LIBRARY, BIRKDALE



I am sure many of our members will have been aware of the campaign that has been running for many years to raise funds to

convert the old Stationmasters House next to Birkdale Station into a Community Library. In fact, a number of our u3a members have been very instrumental in the development of the project.

Well, the good news is that the new facility opens on the 18th May this year just in time for a lot of our group activities starting up again. The u3a have been given a sneak preview of the facility as, not only will it be a Community Library, it will also be a great location for organisations like ourselves to use as a venue for Group activities.



There are three rooms situated on the upper floor which can be used for meetings. One large room, one small room and

a computer room which is laid out with six stand alone computers. All the rooms have large screen TVs complete with full wifi and internet connectivity. There is a lift to the top floor.



The conversion has been made to a very high standard so it is now a very good facility for us to use. As a local charity the price of the rooms is half the cost published on their web site.

The downstairs library area has been designed to be converted as a larger screening room and they intend installing a large drop down screen and projector in the near future.

For all **Group Leaders** who are looking for a new or better facility for their meetings, you should definitely be looking at this building. They will be happy to show you round at any time.

If you want to look at this building as a possible venue for your group, please contact Phil Watling, at southportu3agroupcoordinator@yahoo.com in the first place, and he will organise a look around for you.

Their website address is <https://thestationmastershouse.co.uk>

HERE ARE OUR NEW TRAINS WHEN THEY EVENTUALLY ARRIVE!!!

