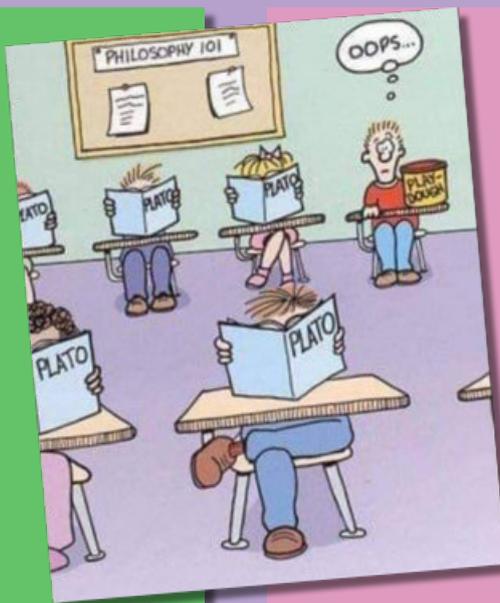




You may have heard the news this week, that Stonehenge was originally built in Wales. I suppose now that there will be arguments about whether it should be returned.

Anyway, ignoring ownership, click [HERE](#) to read an article about the discovery and how it could support an ancient legend.



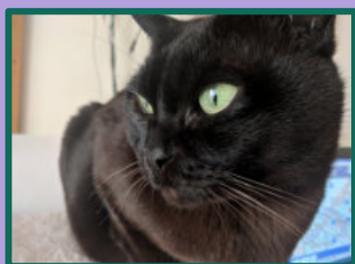
The Trencherfield Steam Engine was 'originally' built in 1907, at Trencherfield Mill in Wigan.

The original engine has recently been restored, but one man wanted his own copy of it. Click [HERE](#) to find out how he achieved his ambitions.



THE CAT'S WHISKERS QUIZ

Can you name these breeds of cat
(Answers on Tuesday)



A



B



C



D



E



F



G



H

Jim Hay



ZOOM TALKS AT HOME

While the monthly meetings are suspended we have organised a series of speakers who will give talks using zoom

Mon 22nd Feb at 1.30 pm ** New talk just added **

On the Upcoming Census

by David Yorke, the Office for National Statistics Engagement Manager for the Sefton area. He will explain how the Census will be carried out and the changes that have had to be made.

Wed 24th Feb at 2pm

Historic Pubs of Liverpool by Julie Kershaw, a local Blue Badge Guide

Wed 10th March at 2pm

Cyber Security, being Safe and Secure by Dave Carlos from Lancashire Constabulary

Wed 24th March at 2pm

Dark Light, The Flannan Island Lighthouse Mystery

told by Fools Gold who are Carol & Steve Robson, Acoustic Musicians

Wed 7th April at 2pm

Ladies of the Air, 'Grandma Flew Spitfires'

by Tim Young, a U3A member from Eastern England

Thur 22nd April at 2pm

Wrecks of the Southport Coast

by Martyn Griffiths, who will talk about the many wrecks that have foundered on our coastline

Thur 6th May at 2pm

Rivington Terraced Gardens

Its history and how recent efforts have been made to secure its future as a magical place for all to enjoy

Thur 20 May at 2pm

Apitourism - travelling for bees by our very own Francine Segar

Francine will talk about her trips to Ethiopia and to Trinidad and Tobago, which she undertook on behalf of UK-based charity Bees for Development.

Thur 3 June at 2pm

John Dempsey, on the Sefton Coast

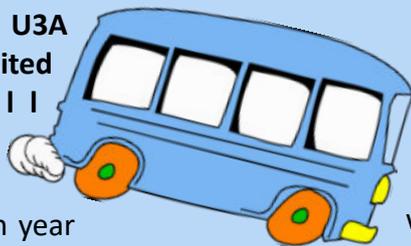
John who many of you know, will talk about the flora, fauna and history of our wonderful coastline and the work that is carried out to protect it.

To take part in these sessions, first go into your Members Portal and click on the "Southport u3a Groups" heading. When in Groups, go to the "Zoom Talks at Home" heading at the bottom of the page and add yourself as a member by clicking "Join Group".

You will be sent a link before each meeting which you can click on to enjoy the talk. Maximum numbers for each talk are currently 100.

If you have any problems, please contact Beacon admin with your membership number

peteru3abeaconadmin@btinternet.com



was celebrating its twenty fifth year in hosting this event.

It is reported to be one of the best scarecrow festivals in the country. Kettlewell boasts a fabulously scenic setting in Upper Wharfedale in Yorkshire, not only appearing in the original opening credits of Emmerdale but also featuring in the 'Calendar Girls' movie. In addition the scenery from the coach was fantastic as we drove through this part of Yorkshire.

The scarecrows ranged from famous celebrities and sports stars to topical characters and the downright quirky. There were plenty of scarecrows to spot in every nook and cranny of this idyllic Yorkshire Dales village.

There was a competition for visitors that was based on two themed trails to follow (one for adults and one for children) which kept everyone busy searching for answers to the clue sheets that was available on the day for a small fee.

To mark the 25th anniversary, the grown-ups' trail related to personalities and news stories of 1994. This included the new leader of 'New Labour', the president of the United States, icons of the Manchester music scene and momentous national events that happened that year.

An enjoyable day out, with a difference, with a variety of places to eat and drink especially the choice of mouthwatering cakes to buy in the Village Hall !!!!





National
Trust



Tatton Park, Cheshire



Sheffield Park, Sussex



Waddeston Manor, Buckinghamshire



Dunham Massey, Manchester



Corfe Castle, Dorset



Bodnant Gardens, Colwyn Bay



Wimpole House, Cambridgeshire



Scotney Castle, Kent



Sissinghurst Castle, Kent



Erdigg, Wrexham



Hardwick Hall, Derbyshire



Sheffield Park, Sussex

This is a selection of pictures taken during many visits to National Trust sites around the country. I am sure many of us have enjoyed days out at many of the beautiful NT gardens and buildings. If you have pictures taken at favourite NT sites around the country that you would like to share with fellow members, send them to The Editor and we will publish your collections in these Newsletters. *Jim Hay*

Our feature on decimalisation on Tuesday has prompted a couple of members to write in with memories and information.

My memory of the decimal changeover was probably two years after the event. I bought a toy in an Appleby shop the price on it was labelled in "decimal". The shopkeeper looked at the conversion chart on the wall behind her and said "that will be three pounds seven and fourpence". Thanks for the memory,
Dave Parry.

I read the article by the BBC that you highlighted in last week's newsletter. It was about the fact that a 50p coin was issued in 2009 with the Kew Gardens Pagoda on it and apparently, because they only issued 150,000 of these it has become a rare collector's item.

I sent the article to my son who is a coin collector, and he came up with an equally interesting reason for this high value.



Apparently, the year before, 2008, The Royal Mint created a new series of complete currency in coins which, when laid together, between them they made up the Royal Coat of Arms. They were so proud

of their achievement that they produced a very large amount of these. So, the following year they needed very little new coins to be minted, thus the small amount of Kew 50p's. The year after that was the Olympics, which saw them issue 29 special 50p coins, so they did not need any more Kew 50ps, thus the rarity value.

Here is the coat of arms collection which is quite clever.

Jim Hay



I just paid for a 12 month gym membership. My bank called to see if my credit card was stolen.

Drive Slowly, Fish Crossing"--- speed limit 40. This happens in the vicinity of the Skokomish River, Shelton, Washington. If the river floods, the salmon take short cuts, swimming across the road to go upstream to spawn. It happens almost every day. Click [HERE](#) to watch the video.



WHAT IS A GRANDPARENT? (Taken from papers written by a class of 8-year-olds)

Grandparents are a lady and a man who have no little children of their own. They like other people's.

Grandparents don't have to do anything except be there when we come to see them. They are so old they shouldn't play hard or run. It is good if they drive us to the shops and give us money.

When they take us for walks, they slow down past things like pretty leaves and caterpillars.

Usually grandmothers are fat but not too fat to tie your shoes. They wear glasses and funny underwear.

Grandparents don't have to be smart.





learn,
laugh,
live

Friday 19th February 2021

Wolves v Leeds United
20:00 BT Sport

Saturday 20th February 2021

Southampton v Chelsea
12:30 BT Sport

Burnley v West Brom
15:00 Sky Sports

Liverpool v Everton
17:30 Sky Sports

Fulham v Sheffield United
20:00 Sky Sports

Sunday 21st February 2021

West Ham United v Tottenham Hotspur
12:00 Sky Sports

Aston Villa v Leicester City
14:00 Sky Sports

Arsenal v Man City
16:30 Sky Sports

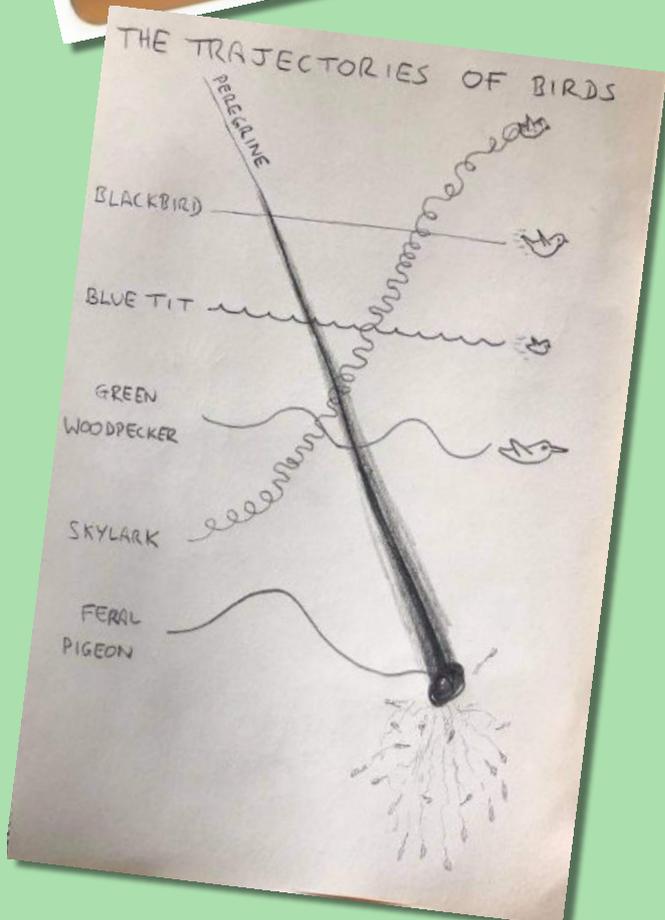
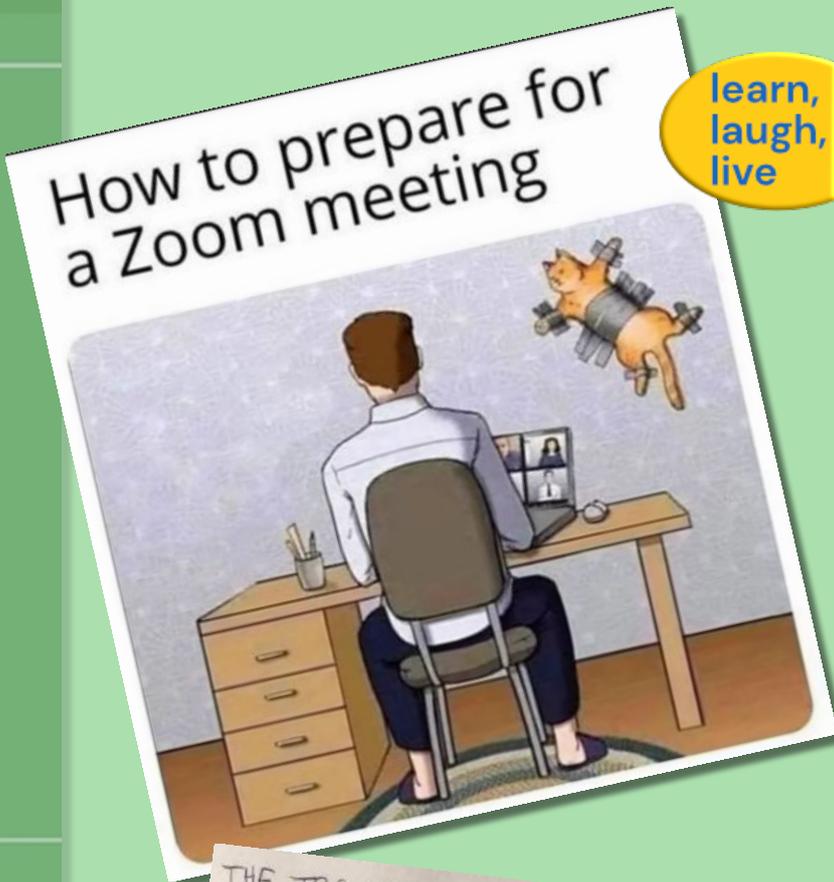
Man Utd v Newcastle United
19:00 BT Sport

Monday 22nd February 2021

Brighton & Hove Albion v Crystal Palace
20:00 Sky Sports

Tuesday 23rd February 2021

Leeds United v Southampton
18:00 Sky Sports



Have you ever seen automatons dance? Click [HERE](#) to experience something new, it's well worth watching all the way to the end.



As a traffic officer it pays to be careful when approaching a car you have just pulled over.

Click [HERE](#) to find out why.





Ian Stern leads a singing group which used to meet in person monthly before lockdown. Since lockdown last year, Ian's been holding a zoom session fortnightly on a Monday evening at 7pm.

The session lasts roughly 30 minutes. Ian plans a programme of songs for the night and his partner Caroline organises them to appear on screen, so it doesn't matter if you don't know the words.

The group sings old songs - could be pop songs from 50s, 60s, 70s, or show songs, it's a mix.



The next meeting will be Monday 1st March 7pm. Anyone wanting to join should email Ian on ianstern65@gmail.com so he can send them the Zoom link.

I have been notified by Ann Hall, that there is a Bereavement Journey Course starting next week.

This 5 session course begins Wednesday 24th February from 6.45pm-9pm on zoom. It is offered all over the country and was designed by Bereavement Counsellors.

The course offers an opportunity for support and sharing in small groups, to anyone who has experienced the loss of a loved one, particularly during this pandemic. It is also suitable for folk who were bereaved many years ago, who may have found the isolation and loneliness of lockdown has affected their resilience. It is free and is being facilitated by a team of trained volunteers through Southport Methodist Circuit.

Ann has told me that the course is not of a religious nature, it is open to all people regardless of their beliefs. It is very inclusive and well safeguarded.

For further details please send an email to sallyeyes21@live.co.uk.

Colin Weir has been back in touch, with more stories of his experiences in the war, taken from the book he is writing about his family history. Here is the latest installment.

Being nearly seventeen when I enlisted in the army made me the oldest in our group. I had spent nearly two years working in engineering shops and failed to gain an apprenticeship due to my lack of education.

I wanted to be a tradesman and I had scraped through the army tests and was granted a place at Harrogate Army Apprentices School. I had left my secondary school at Easter in 1953. I was no scholar but a willing worker. (The main reason for my educational downfall was a failure to attend school and I sagged school (truanted) and worked casually on local farms in the Knowsley area. A subject I might return to sometime in the future.)

I had worked in engineering since leaving school but failed to obtain a much wanted apprenticeship. I signed up to be a grand sounding Telecommunication Mechanic. However, my lack of education put paid to that avenue and I had to accept my second choice of trade as a fitter and that involved transferring to the Chepstow School.

I soon realised that if I wanted any promotion I would have to do something about getting educated. Like most of the boys we breezed through our third and second class education certificates, however when it came to our First class certificate it was on a par with GCE's, and we had to pass all five subjects. Maths, Physics, English, Engineering drawing and Map reading. When it came to Maths I was a duffer and an Education Sergeant recognised this and promised to bury his boot seven lace holes deep in my backside if I didn't pull my socks up. (I can't repeat his exact words.) I was a few marks short of getting a distinction in Maths when the results came through.

Due to my two years in engineering before my army days I ended up winning the top prize for fitters. In finishing this first portion of my army life I must tell of some of the old soldiers in charge of us who were left over from WW2 and were getting their pension time



in. Just like I had been, lacking in education one was heard to say. 'You lad, what's yer name?' 'Smith Sarge.' 'Is that spelt with one F or two?' Later he said to the same lad. 'Do you know what a Sarge is? Well let me tell you, it's the back end of a sausarge,' (Again I've changed the language.) These old Sergeants were characters who had seen plenty of action and had the medals. They also knew all of the answers.

Almost three years to the date We were transferred to our regular Regiments or Corps, mine was the Royal Engineers at Farnborough where we were treated just like a new recruit. I was chuffed to have my five 'O' levels and trade qualification of a class three Plant Fitter. However, at this stage they meant little as regardless of them you had to become a Field Engineer in the Royal Engineers or Sappers as we were known as. The meant learning the basics of building Bailey, Heavy Girder and Light Assault Floating Bridges (LAFB), learning knots and lashings, how to dig trenches and revet them.

Then rifles, Stirling, Sten, Bren, and the 303, how to strip and clean them, what to do when they jammed. This had to be done in day light then with a blindfold on to simulate night time. Then how to throw a grenade, they had three and five second delay fuses and in training you had to remain upright to see where they landed before taking cover.

If they failed to explode they were left for 24 hours and then plastic explosive gently attached before being detonated from a safe distance. We'd previously been trained to handle explosives. The training seemed endless.

After about four months we were deemed fit to be let loose on the public. I along with others was posted to Ripon in Yorkshire and attached to a Regiment that was just returning from eighteen months on Christmas Island and witnessing an Atom bomb test. There were a lot of other sappers there training to operate the bulldozers, excavators, graders, scrapers, and all manner of plant. We repaired and maintained it. We were there for about eighteen months getting experience before being sent the Chatham in Kent on an upgrade course in our trade and a higher qualification.