

We hope you all had a peaceful Christmas and are ready to take 2021 by storm, with a little help (click [HERE](#))

Okay, I know Christmas is over, but just one more (I promise). Did you sing 'Jingle Bells' over Christmas? If so, maybe you should click [HERE](#) to read about the origins of the song, you may never feel the same about it again!



Meanwhile In America

Click [HERE](#) to watch a video of one possible Presidential debate.

Without Further Ado! We would like to introduce you to another of our Christmas Hamper winners. Liz told us that she intended to share the hamper with family, I hope she didn't let them have all of the best bits!



Word Teaser:

CTOUCAHOCU

Can you unscramble the letters to make a legitimate word meaning a piece of India rubber. It is in the dictionary.

Molly Douglas

The longest-running drama in the world is a soap opera about life in an English farming village. Every week, 5 million people listen to The Archers on BBC Radio 4. It is also the broadcaster's most downloaded radio show. It first aired 70 years ago.



Click [HERE](#) to read an article about the show.



CHRISTMAS BY PHOTO 1

One final look at Christmas, by Photo Group 1. Here is a selection of the Christmas pictures taken last month



Paraprosdokians

Paraprosdokians are figures of speech in which the latter part of a sentence or phrase is surprising or unexpected and is frequently humorous. (Sir Winston Churchill loved them)

- Where there's a will, I want to be in it.
- The last thing I want to do is hurt you ...but it's still on my list.
- Since light travels faster than sound, some people appear bright until you hear them speak
- If I agreed with you, we'd both be wrong.
- We never really grow up -- we only learn how to act in public.
- War does not determine who is right, only who is left.
- Knowledge, is knowing a tomato is a fruit. Wisdom is not putting it in a fruit salad.
- To steal ideas from one person is plagiarism. To steal from many is research.
- I didn't say it was your fault, I said I was blaming you.
- In filling out an application, where it says, "In case of an emergency, notify..." I answered "a doctor.
- Women will never be equal to men until they can walk down the street with a bald head and a beer gut, and still think they are sexy.
- You do not need a parachute to skydive. You only need a parachute to skydive twice
- I used to be indecisive, but now I'm not so sure
- To be sure of hitting the target, shoot first and call whatever you hit the target.
- Going to church doesn't make you a Christian, any more than standing in a garage makes you a car.
- You're never too old to learn something stupid
- I'm supposed to respect my elders, but it's getting harder and harder for me to find someone older than me

Sadly this is true



If you are partial to a spot of weeding, this may be of interest to you.

Click [HERE](#) to read the article.



'Support bubbles have been such an important part of this year.'



A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

A big thank you to all those who have renewed their membership so far. Despite not having renewals available at Christ Church, the response in the first week has been great.

As I write, after less than a week, we have had 125 written renewals arrive in the post and 221 renewals online using either Paypal or Credit Card.

If you have renewed online, don't forget to print off your card which appears at the bottom of your payment receipt. If you don't have a printer or just want a proper printed card later, these will be available when we start meeting again at Christ Church.

If you haven't yet renewed your Membership, please do so soon.

Membership year ends on 31st January

Did you work it out?

The word hidden in the anagram was:

CAOUTCHOU



It is thought to have originated around 1765 in South America



Overheard during a ramble!

Hee, when I were a lamb, we'd proper sheepdogs then, none of yer cockapoo jobs like y' see round 'ere nowadays."

"Aye. Look at 'em humans draggin yon poor lickle terrier up t'path. I reckon that there terrier never caught a rat in its life..."

"Yeah, that owd sheepdog we 'ad were a right terror ..."

"When Vet came round, he bit him int arse ..."

"Vet were givin' injections at time ..."

"Syringe flew over t'fence and hit th' owd bull in yon field ..."

"Bull went chargin' round field and broke t'fence. Went after vet and ..."

"Tossed him inter t'other field onter stallion ..."

"Stallion ran off with 'im... hee, and us never saw that same vet agin."

"Aye. Them were t'days..."

Francine Sagar



Before the lockdown last year, the Coffee Morning

learn,
laugh,
live

Group, led by Linda Watling and Yvonne Hay, had been meeting fortnightly in the Houghton Coffee Bar in Houghton Street. Most days they would get 10-14 coming along for an informal chat and a cup of coffee while out shopping in the town. It was very much a drop in format, not a structured group like many others.

Very quickly after the first lockdown they set up a Zoom version of the Coffee Morning and that has carried on ever since. Usually with about 6-9 meeting every fortnight, these have continued in the same informal atmosphere for about two hours or so every other Thursday.

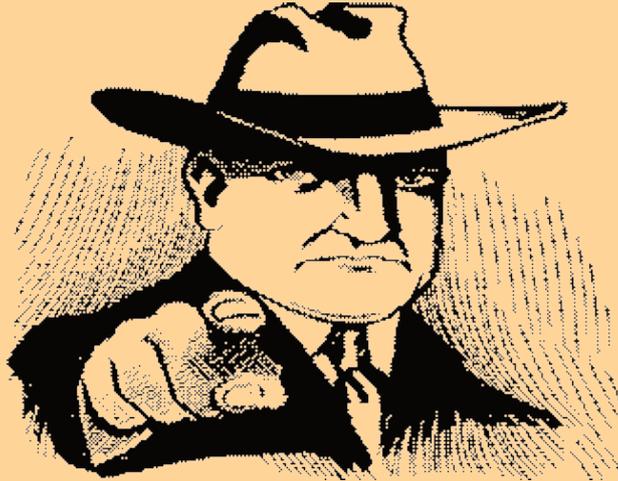
Like everyone else, they are looking forward to meeting again face to face – if the Café reopens again!! If not, they will be looking for a new venue this year.



Early in 2020, this everyday household item became something of a collectors edition and a matter of obsession for many people.

It may be something about which you have never given any real thought before, but just what would we do without toilet paper?

Click [HERE](#) to read an article which may give you some ideas.



YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU!!!!!!!

ARE YOUR DAYS LONG AND BORING?

DO YOU FEEL UNDER USED AND UNDER-VALUED?

**WOULD YOU LIKE TO PLAY A BIGGER PART IN THE
SOUTHPORT COMMUNITY?**

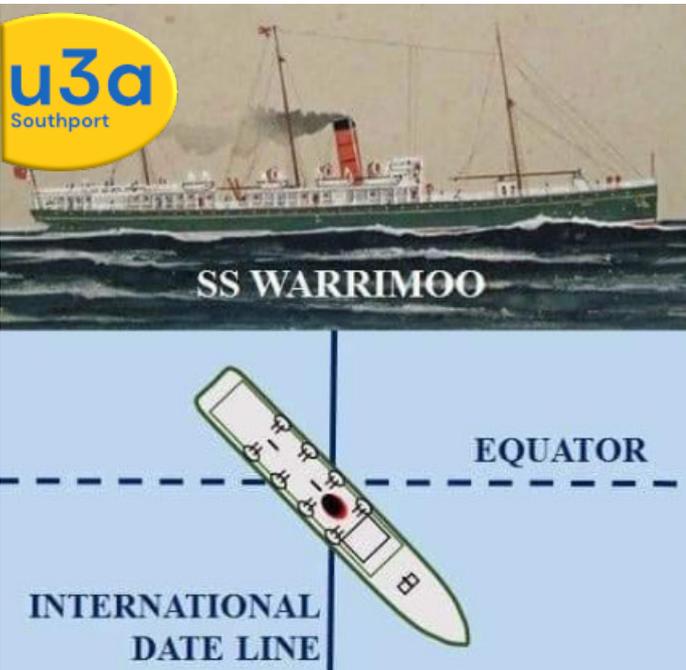
DO YOU HAVE VALUABLE SKILLS?

**IF YOUR ANSWER TO ALL OF THE ABOVE IS “YES”, WHY NOT
BECOME A SOUTHPORT U3A COMMITTEE MEMBER?**

**PLEASE CONTACT PADDY MCNEISH,
EITHER BY EMAIL (PADDYCLINCH@YAHOO.CO.UK)
OR PHONE ON 01704 531661**

**ASK NOT WHAT SOUTHPORT U3A CAN DO FOR YOU BUT WHAT
CAN YOU DO FOR SOUTHPORT U3A.**

Charity Number: 1164448



- The date in the aft part of the ship was 31 December 1899.
- In the bow (forward) part it was 1 January 1900.

learn,
laugh,
live

This ship was therefore not only in:

- Two different days,
- Two different months,
- Two different years,
- Two different seasons
- But in two different centuries - all at the same time.

Quite remarkable.

Quiz Of The Year



Last year was a long and difficult one for almost everybody and many of us probably want nothing more than to forget about it.

If, however, you want to test how much you actually remember about 2020, the BBC have a four part quiz online.

I gave up watching the news at some point, as it wasn't doing my normally optimistic nature any good. This quiz is a good way to find out how much attention you were paying.

Click [HERE](#) to take the quiz.

On December 31, 1899, the passenger steamer SS Warrimoo was quietly knifing its way through the waters of the mid-Pacific on its way from Vancouver to Australia. The navigator had just finished working out a celestial computation of their exact position and brought Captain John DS. Phillips, the result.

The Warrimoo's position was LAT 0° 31' N and LONG 179 30' W. "Know what this means?" First Mate Payton broke in, "We're only a few miles from the intersection of the Equator and the International Date Line".

Captain Phillips was prankish enough to take full advantage of the opportunity for achieving the navigational freak of a lifetime. He called his navigators to the bridge to check & double check the ship's position. He changed course slightly so as to bear directly on his mark. Then he adjusted the engine speed.

The calm weather & clear night worked in his favour. At midnight the SS Warrimoo lay on the Equator at exactly the point where it crossed the International Date Line! The consequences of this bizarre position were many:

- The forward section (bow) of the ship was in the Southern Hemisphere & in the middle of summer.
- The aft (stern) was in the Northern Hemisphere & in the middle of winter.



Tuesday 12th January 2021

Sheffield United v Newcastle United
18:00 Sky Sports

Burnley v Man Utd
20:15 Sky Sports

Wolves v Everton
20:15 Sky Sports

Wednesday 13th January 2021

Man City v Brighton & Hove Albion
18:00 BT Sport

Aston Villa v Tottenham Hotspur
20:15 Sky Sports

Thursday 14th January 2021

Arsenal v Crystal Palace
20:00 Sky Sports

Friday 15th January 2021

Fulham v Chelsea
20:00 Sky Sports



It may not seem as if there is much good news in the world at the moment, but one British company is working hard to resolve the plastic pollution problem.

'Polymateria' have developed a plastic which truly biodegrades, instead of just breaking into smaller pieces of plastic. Click [HERE](#) to read the article.



**learn,
laugh,
live**

Printer Cartridges Available

If anyone has an Epson Stylus Office BX635FWD printer, Phil McNulty has ten free cartridges.

Anyone interested can email him at philmcnulty1@gmail.com.

Christmas Eve by Phil McNulty

Christmas Eve is suspended in time from childhood.
The snow falling in broad and heavy flakes,
diffusing the orange light from warm living rooms.

The crunch and trudge of revellers, the glow from coal fires,
the scent of the roast, the smell of fresh pine from the glittering tree,
above the gilt wrapped presents.

And sprigs of holly and mistletoe in the hallway,
with cards strung on string from picture rails,
while chairs and cushions are commandeered for the Best Room.

Where a trestle table, heavy with pies and cakes,
breads, cheeses and fruits, ales and mulled wine,
'Must Not' be touched 'til guests arrive.

And, having eaten, we troop to church at midnight.
Sing hymns in the warmth of candlelight.
Marvelling at the beer-baritone of uncles in the congregation.

Afterwards we walk in the deep snow, now falling like a fine gauze,
and stop at the brazier on High St, for chestnuts,
which crack and burst and spit over the fire tin.

Our small reddened faces, in duffle-coat hoods,
are drawn to the wood smoke and sparks, but we want to hurry home.

To be under those covers, to say prayers and never ever to wake or look or listen
until the Very Best morning of the year.

Now that we are all back in lockdown, we would like to remind anyone who is shielding, and needs help with shopping or collections, that we do have a number of volunteers who are willing to help you.

To be put in touch with someone please contact Phil Watling on 07816 680532 or click [HERE](#) to email him.

**With another
lockdown happening,
please remember if
you're struggling and
you feel hopeless,
you're not alone!!**

**Can these helplines get shared far and
wide for those who may need someone to
talk to during this uncertain time?**

**Samaritans 116 123
Anxiety UK 03444 775 774
Mind 0300 123 3393
Calm 0800 58 58 58
Crisis text line (text)85258
Child-line 0800 11 11**

