

Have you signed up for the RSPB Big Garden Birdwatch yet? It starts on Friday, so if you are interested you should click [HERE](#) to visit the site.



Although it is called a 'Garden' bird watch you don't need a garden, just somewhere that garden birds visit.



Still on the subject of wildlife, there is an interesting looking documentary on BBC iPlayer, about the effort to prevent the Clydesdale breed of horses from dying out.

Click [HERE](#) to go to the program on iPlayer.

If you are fed up of sitting in traffic, how about flying out of it? Flying cars have been the object of science fiction fantasies for some time, but have been gradually getting closer to reality. Now they are set to take off (pun intended) in Japan by 2023.



Click [HERE](#) for the article.



Time for another virtual tour. This time, we are visiting the NASA Research Centre in Langley.

Take your protein pills, helmet on and click [HERE](#) to take the tour.

Spend some quality relaxation time. Click [HERE](#) and watch the 'Aquarium Of The Pacific' webcams.



Michael Lockwood - Bijou Cinema

It is with sadness that we report the death of Michael Lockwood, who set up the Bijou Cinema. Geoff Matthews of the Jazz Group has provided the following tribute.

"I met Michael at a U3A monthly meeting when he booked for a Jazz Group gig. He explained he had been bequeathed a considerable and unexpected sum of money and was negotiating to buy the old run down and empty Latin Lounge with a view to setting up a community arts cinema.

He invited me to look round when he eventually got the keys. What a daunting job it looked but Michael had a clear plan and set about it with great enthusiasm. He and I agreed that it could also be a good venue for live music and he kept me posted on progress with occasional visits.

He had the usual planning tussles with the Council and problems with contractors which delayed the project. What a delight it was to see the Bijou Cinema open in 2019 and we agreed to organise a U3A Jazz Gig as soon as practicable. Michael had created a wonderful local social venue from his own resources which he then administered into not-for-profit trust.

We organised the gig for the U3A for April 2020 which included a film show, live jazz and a meal provided by an outside caterer. It sold out pretty well immediately and we were 'gutted' to have to cancel it when Covid 19 struck and we agreed to rearrange as soon as possible.

I was shocked to hear of his death. He really was a philanthropist who worked hard for the community benefit and will be much mourned and missed. I hope the Bijou is able to continue despite his absence as it would be a great memorial to a really great bloke."



PUT THESE IN CHRONOLOGICAL ORDER



OLYMPIC VENUES

A - Amsterdam **B** - Atlanta **C** - Munich **D** - Melbourne

BEATLES ALBUMS

A - Abbey Road **B** - With the Beatles **C** - Help **D** - Revolver

US PRESIDENTS

A - Nixon **B** - Clinton **C** - Ford **D** - Carter

UK PRIME MINISTERS

A - Robert Peel **B** - Ramsey MacDonald **C** - Pitt the Younger **D** - Macmillan

INVENTIONS

A - Email **B** - Compact Disc **C** - Mobile Phone **D** - Digital Camera

DR. WHO ACTORS

A - Jon Pertwee **B** - Colin Baker **C** - Patrick Troughton **D** - Peter Davidson

Being a "Maker"

(David Sutton)

learn,
laugh,
live

Since retiring I decided to take up a new hobby. It took some time but I eventually decided to look into how technology would influence the future (4th Industrial Revolution) and learn to make things using the latest (but cheap) technology. I sometime combine them by building fun demonstrations that can be used during talks on future technology and at a local code club.

As the larger things I do are for educational use I try to incorporate all the STEAM educational categories (science, technology, engineering, art and mathematics) in a project. I try to make things fun so use Lego and Meccano in addition to computer components such as Raspberry Pis and Arduinos. As art is by far my weakest area, but one of the most enjoyable, I tend to focus on it and try to incorporate it into all projects. A few examples of projects include:

A camera made from a Box Brownie. Using a £4 computer and small computer camera. The photos were manipulated using "Google Deep Dream" artificial intelligence (very simple to use).

A Tide clock. A small display shows the time of day and tide levels for the day. Lots of different graphical features are included to show environmental readings. It uses a cheap Raspberry Pi.

Street Art. I took hundreds of photos of New Zealand Street Art and created an animated graphical rolling display. (I could do with someone with more artistic ability to take this further).

An environmental demonstration covering New Zealand earthquakes and volcanic activity. It also includes a few smaller projects covering climate change and the impacts of CO2.

I've built 4 separate robots using different small computers. Some projects use more than one.



If you are interested in reading David's blog about his environmental monitoring project, click [HERE](#). There is also a demo which you can access [HERE](#).



OLYMPICS

A - (1928) **D** - (1956) **C** - (1972) **B** - (1996)

BEATLES

B - (1963) **C** - (1965) **D** - (1966) **A** - (1967)

US PRESIDENTS

A - (1969) **C** - (1974) **D** - (1977) **B** - (1993)

UK PRIME MINISTERS

C - (1783) **A** - (1834) **B** - (1924) **D** - (1957)

INVENTIONS

A - (1971) **D** - (1975) **C** - (1977) **B** - (1980)

DR. WHO ACTORS

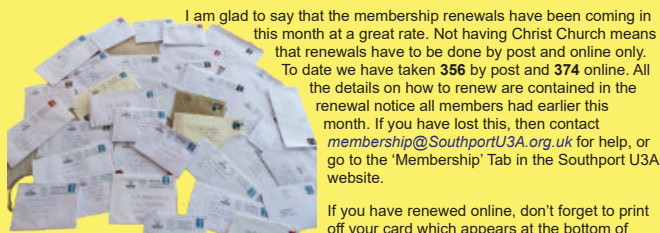
C - (66-69) **A** - (70-74) **D** - (81-84) **B** - 84-86)

**I've just rang the council
and asked if it's ok to have
a skip outside my house.
He replied go for it fatty
you could do with the
exercise.....**

**What's the best way to avoid
touching your face?**

A glass of wine in each hand!

KEEP YOUR MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS FLOWING IN



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*.

REMEMBER:- Membership year ends on 31st January



**LETTERS
TO THE
EDITOR**

learn,
laugh,
live

First, a follow-up on our non-fog mask tips.

"Hi back in my motorcycling days we would clean the visor then put a drop of fairy liquid on it then polish it with a clean dry cloth. It will go smeared at first but will then polish up after that it would never mist up. This should work just as well with glasses and a face mask. Got to be worth a try."

Ron Tate

Next, a response to Colin Weir's wartime experience.

"Having read the latest newsletter, I was interested to read the account by Colin Weir and how, as a child, his family tuned into Dick Barton.

Just out of interest and because this article reminded me, in 2003 (Duncan Carse, who was one of the voices of Dick Barton died in 2004) rang our house. My uncle was visiting at the time and Duncan Carse wanted to speak to him. He had a lovely deep voice, (ideal as a special agent).

Between 1951 and 1956 Duncan Carse led expedition surveys to the Antarctic and my uncle was the geologist who went with him (Alec Trendall). Alec later wrote a book in 2011 recording their surveys. Alec was invited to unveil a bronze bust of Duncan Carse at the Grytviken Museum in 2007."

Alison Horspool



On January 25th, 1924, the first ever Winter Olympics started in Chamonix. The event was a great success, attracting 10,004 paying spectators, and was retrospectively named the First Olympic Winter Games.

For more details, including the first ever Winter Games Champion, click [HERE](#).



Stories of the Night Sky

Members of the sole science group within Southport U3A are presently holding meetings fortnightly on Zoom. The following meetings have so far been scheduled:

26th Jan - Edmund Moynihan on 'Mars: Part 2'

9th March - Bob Mount: 'Analysing Stars: Part 1'

23rd March - Rick Tyres: 'What does it take to make ET?'

9th February - Bob Mount: 'Analysing Stars: Part 2'

23rd February - Professor Newsam: 'Observing the Universe'

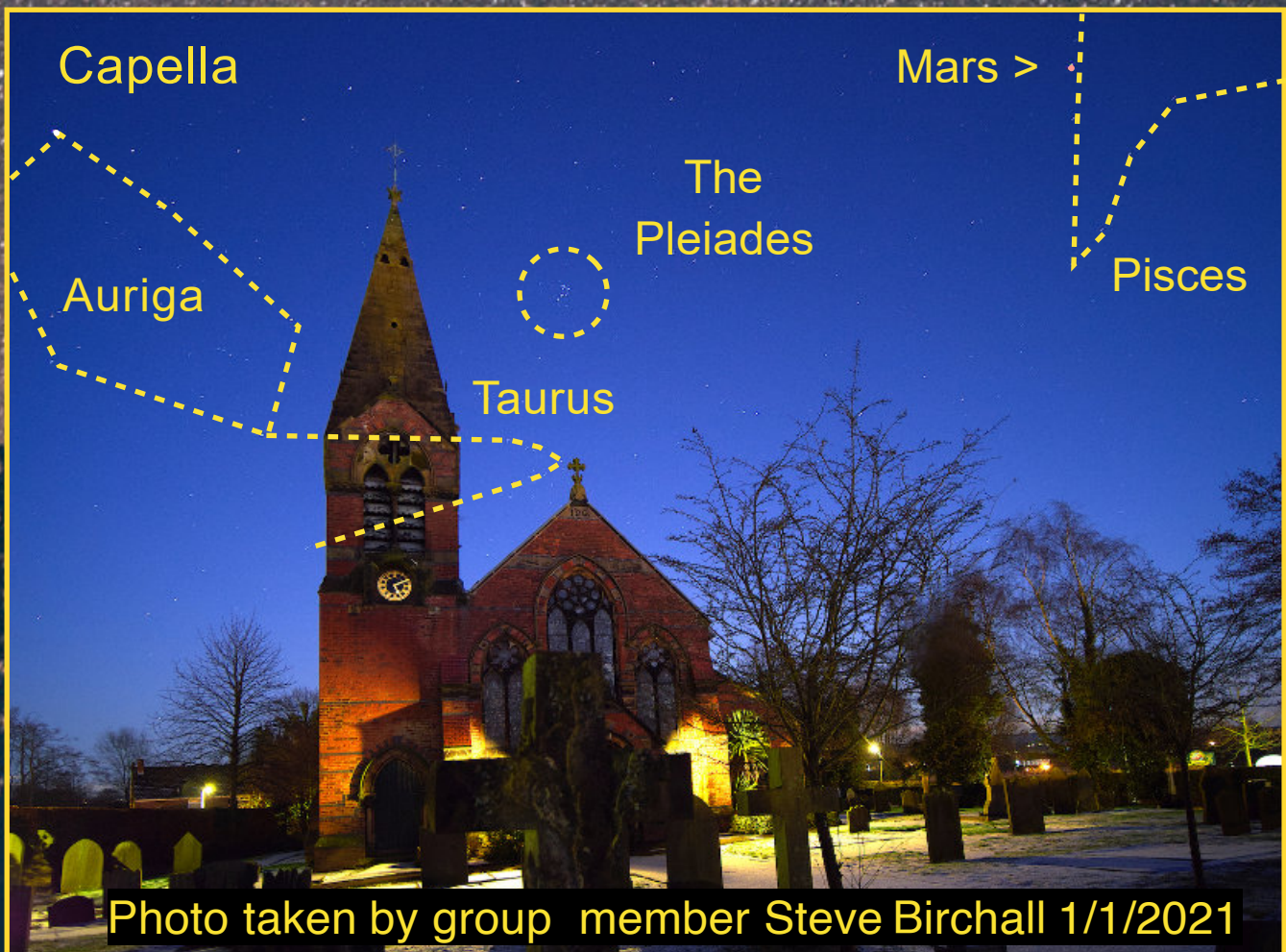
6th April - Bob Mount: 'The Hertzsprung-Russell Diagram'

20th April - Bob Mount: 'The Doppler Effect and Red Shift'

4th May - Dr Steve Barrett: 'The ABC of Galaxy Evolution'

18th May - Bob Mount: 'The Big Bang Model of the Universe'

Meetings are held on Tuesdays, starting at 10.30AM.



To go astro zooming contact ramount@talktalk.net