

Sefton council has issued a response to the government announcement on the South Africa variant of Covid-19.



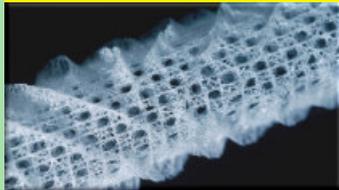
Click [HERE](#) to read their response.



We haven't had a 2 Ronnies sketch for a while, so let's put that right. Here they are, working on their crosswords. Click [HERE](#) for the video.

You Read It Here First (maybe!)

Hot on the heels of our story about flying cars being available in Japan from 2023, how about a flying car airport in Coventry this year? Click [HERE](#) to read the article.



Ever heard of a 'Glass Sponge'? No, it isn't what you use to do the washing up.

Apparently it is a deep ocean organism with some interesting properties. Click [HERE](#) to read the article.



Okay this one is for the men out there who can't get hold of the TV remote! Click [HERE](#) for an alternate method (but don't tell the ladies).

(Blame Colin Weir)



It may not be January any more, but these 5 Scandinavian recipes still look worth trying out. After all, who can resist cakes, cookies and buns?

Click [HERE](#) to see the recipes.

If you fancy watching a ballet in the comfort of your own home now is your chance. 'La Fille mal gardée' is available on the Royal Opera House stream until 28th February, for the very reasonable price of £3. Click [HERE](#) to visit the site.



I was lonely until I glued a coffee cup onto my car.



Now everybody waves at me!

If you like Kenneth Williams and/or you are a Star Wars fan, you will almost certainly love this clip. Have you ever wondered what Lord Darth Vader would have been like had he been played by Kenneth Williams?



Wonder no longer, just click [HERE](#) to find out.

ANSWERS

CROSSWORD No 1

	1	2	3	4	
	M	I	S	T	
5	L	I	N	E	6
7	I	N	H	A	E
8	A	C	U	M	E
9	R	E	M	A	N
	10				
	R	E	N	T	

SUDOKU No 1

8	1	5	4	9	3	7	2	6
9	2	3	6	8	7	1	4	5
6	7	4	5	1	2	9	3	8
3	5	9	8	2	6	4	7	1
7	6	2	1	3	4	5	8	9
4	8	1	9	7	5	2	6	3
5	4	8	2	6	9	3	1	7
1	9	7	3	4	8	6	5	2
2	3	6	7	5	1	8	9	4

TODAY'S RIDDLES

- A A Candle
- B The Future
- C All the people on the boat are married
- D The Match
- E He was bald
- F A Bank

Part 3 of Colin Weir's Wartime Experiences

One day my Dad turned up with a pair of clogs for me. The uppers had come from a worn out pair of boots and were nailed to a wooden clog soles with irons on them. Everyone could hear me coming for miles, but I had the warmest feet in Liverpool and when we played football with a tennis ball in the school playground only the bravest came near my clogs. They gave off sparks from the iron runners whenever I slid.

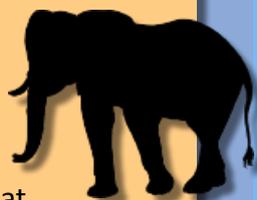
One winters day we awoke to about three inches of snow. I set off for school and I hadn't walked more than fifty yards when I found I was two inches taller with the snow sticking to the soles of my now treasured clogs. No wet feet for me.

A retired neighbour was a pigeon fancier and had a loft full of them. Very few knew that they were also carrier pigeons for the armed forces. The family had a petrol allowance for their Velocette motor bike, it was started by pedalling, instead of a pillion seat a pigeon cage was fitted and for training purposes they took it out into the country before releasing the birds. The fancier discouraged the birds from landing on the roof of his house with a catapult and pieces of potato he fired at

them. He wanted them trained to enter the loft immediately on their return to recover any messages they brought and to forward them. They had a corn allowance to feed the pigeons.

All of the land close to our road belonged to Liverpool Corporation and was rented by local farmers and it abutted Lord Derby's estate, part of which is now the Safari Park. The part closest to our road was where Cantril (Cannibal) Farm, later changed to Stockbridge Village after Stockbridge Lane that leads to it. It had about a ten acre wooded area that illicitly helped our fires to keep burning throughout the war and when we celebrated the end of the war helped keep our magnificent bonfires ablaze during VE and VJ days, when we had street party's. It was then that all of the hoarded goodies made an appearance, jelly's, blancmange, cakes and biscuits the likes we hadn't seen for years and the younger kids were experiencing for the first time in their lives.

A large estate just off Stockbridge Lane was nearing completion when the war kicked off. Hillside Avenue and others became a German Prisoner of War Camp for the duration. It was here that Bert Trautman, later the goalkeeper for Manchester City was housed. Some of the POWs worked on the adjoining farms.



One of the things on my To-Do list is an African Safari. That may never happen, for many reasons, but thanks to natural history documentaries and wildlife cams I can at least get a taste of what it may be like. Africam is one of those which offers multiple different areas to watch. Click [HERE](#) to visit the site.

This time last year the u3a drama group was enjoying a short break and “basking in the glow” after performing a very successful pantomime- The Last Adventure of Sinbad. Little did we know that we would only be able to meet a few more times before closing due to the pandemic.

We have all missed our weekly sessions but a WhatsApp support group was quickly formed and this has proved to be a lifeline for many of us to keep in touch, share jokes, photos and stories and be there for each other as needed. Whether a daily contributor or an occasional visitor to the group, members know that we are all there for each other and in many ways we have become closer than we were when we just met weekly for drama.

This group also evolved into additional weekly zoom sessions so that we could actually see each other even if technology did prove to be a challenge at times!

Over the summer when lockdown briefly lifted we were able to meet up outdoors- usually for a drink and catch up before again reverting to zoom in the second lockdown.

In the brief time that we were in “tier two” we met for socially distanced walks in Hesketh Park - no more than six in a group - but even that contact seems far away again now. Fortunately zoom and WhatsApp continue to plug the gap and we look forward to the day that we can start to rehearse again - whether that’s a play or a panto. Whatever it is, it will be something that provides us all with much needed fun.

We are looking forward to starting up again in new premises. We had just made arrangements to decamp to St James’ church hall in Birkdale when the first lockdown struck so again something to look forward to.

We hope that when we are eventually able to put on our next performance we will be able to count on you all in the u3a to come and support us- a good laugh will be guaranteed!

Have you ever wondered what the local weather forecast may sound like if delivered in the appropriate accent? Click [HERE](#) to find out.

