

## Newsflash - December 2020

### Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year



## Christmas at the Library Gardens

### It's Not Just About Raking Leaves

If you are able to get out and about, you may have noticed that Leigh Library Gardens is looking very festive at the moment. I am the new Groups Coordinator, Sally Dickinson and I am a keen volunteer with the Friends of Leigh Library Gardens group, who help to maintain these historic gardens along with Southend Parks Department and Leigh Town Council.

In these times of lockdowns and restrictions, getting outside has become very important to many of us, to meet our friends and family and to enjoy nature. Some of us feel more comfortable socialising outdoors at present, even if it is freezing cold. We just wrap up, take a warm drink and sit and enjoy the trees and the views and being around people. I am so pleased that we have been allowed to continue our gardening during the latest lockdown, as the Library Gardens has become a sanctuary for many people in the community. Our band of volunteers is a little community in itself; we enjoy working together and get a lot out of seeing the results of our labours.

We receive a lot of positive feedback from people we meet during our gardening sessions and it makes it even more worthwhile to hear what it means to them that this lovely garden is looked after.

Leigh Town Council have put on a lovely festive light display which is on until 21st December and little ones can post a letter to Santa and he will reply as well! Last posting date is 16th December. The volunteers have also made a little display in the wildlife area; a local arts business have made us some giant Christmas baubles and our neighbour and volunteer has some elf residents in his garden near the Church entrance. The lights are best viewed in the dark of course.

On a sunny day look for a fabulous sunset across the Estuary. Pop in until 6pm Sunday to Thursday and 7pm Friday and Saturday.

Someone commented on Facebook that walking through the gardens at the moment is like a big friendly hug - what a lovely thing to say. Why not see for yourself?

If you are interested in volunteering in the gardens, all are welcome; we have 4 sessions a month and are adding 2 more in the new year. Look out for posters in the gardens or contact [Follg2018@gmail.com](mailto:Follg2018@gmail.com). We are also on Facebook and Instagram. Search for Friends of Leigh Library Gardens.



## November Monthly Meeting



In November we held another very successful monthly group meeting via Zoom. The guest speakers, Ciara Phipps and Claire Reed gave a wonderful insight into how ancient treasures are cared for in Southend museum They also vividly described details of the unearthing of the Prince of Prittlewell and whilst not available on the day (due to u3a problems,) they provided a powerpoint presentation full of wonderful pictures. The presentation is available on the link below if you have not yet seen it. Please note it is a

very large document so it may be best not saving to your device. Some of the artefacts are currently on display in the museum, if you feel like a visit.

<https://preview.mailerlite.com...>

(Please note copyright belongs to Southend Museums and slides may not be copied or used without their written authority.)

We would also like to advise that the museum also accept volunteers so if you are interested in cataloguing, restoration work or offering any other specialised skill please contact the museum via their social media sites.

## Dates for your Diary



December 13 @ 18.25 pm

### **Traditional Christmas Carols on Facebook**

On Sunday 13 December at 18.25pm the Leigh Folk Festival in conjunction with St Clements Church will be holding a carol service.

The whole service will be streamed live via Facebook.

To watch search for '**Leigh Folk Carol Service**' and you will see reference to the event.



December 17 @ 2.30pm

### **December Zoom Talk by Daryl Easlea**

After the success of the last two zoom meetings we are happy to announce we have local boy Daryl Easlea providing a talk via zoom in December. Daryl has a vast knowledge of music as well as being a DJ, writer and discographer..

He will give us a complete history of Christmas Music and Christmas number ones in twelve records' (ie six each).

If you fancy some Christmas cheer, please join via the link on the email invitation, sent from Leigh Estuary.

## Zoom Meeting Etiquette

Please note we do need to mute all attendees on commencement of a zoom talk to avoid sound interference. We would also kindly ask if you have any questions that you use the chat function.

On an iPad

- Tap the screen to make the controls bar appear.
- Tap on Participants.
- At the bottom of the list, tap **Chat**.
- Type your message and tap Send.

On a laptop/pc

- Tap on Chat at the bottom of the screen
- Type message and tap Send

On an iPhone

- If Chat not visible
- tap More at bottom of page
- tap chat
- Type message
- Tap send

## Local & National u3a News



### **Congratulations**

Great work and well done to our own Jennifer Simpson. Jennifer has recently stepped down from heading up the National Shared Learning Project.

We are sure you will be sorely missed.



### **2021 Diary**

2021 diaries are now available online. They need to be ordered in lots of 5. (@ £15.00 a set). A ready made Christmas gift.

Click on the link below

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/advice/...>



### **u3a Podcast**

In September the u3a started their own podcast, broadcast on Youtube. The 2nd podcast was

recently released covering topics which include creative drawing and opera amongst many others. To access click on the link below.

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/about/n...>



### **Winter watch**

The u3a are asking members to share images of their local, personal wintery views and experiences.

They are looking for pictures of winter as you are experiencing it at this time. Please note you should not include any photos of people.

Photos will be regularly published fortnightly.

Click on the link below for more details:-

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/learnin...>



## **Interesting Anecdotes**

**Our first new feature.**

**An interesting anecdote from Leigh Estuary u3a Chair Barbara Santarelli.**

Many of you will have had some fascinating experiences in your lives and we would love to share them with your fellow u3a members. If you would like to contribute to this feature with your own tales please [email leu3afnews@gmail.com](mailto:leu3afnews@gmail.com).

## **Shipwrecked! – A watery adventure - September 24 1999**



In mid-September 1999 I set off from Heathrow Airport with a group of about 40 people to fly over to New York where we were going to board the Norwegian Cruise Line's newest cruise ship – 'Norwegian Sky' on its inaugural cruise, visiting various ports on the Eastern starboard of the US and Canada via Newfoundland, right up as far as Quebec before returning, dropping in at other ports over a 13 day period. I should mention here that I was the Tour Manager of the group and we were doing a Titan tour.

We had visited Quebec, which is a very pretty, buzzy city (their French is the equivalent of a 16th century French dialect and quite impossible to understand even if you speak normal French quite well) and we had got underway coming back along the St Lawrence River, when the Captain announced that that some whales had been sighted just a little way up the Saguenay River which was coming up on the port side, so we turned left and followed up the river and saw some whales (possibly Minky Whales – it was long ago so there may have been others which were bigger.) I know I took dozens of non-whale shots with my camera! After that we returned to our normal course – in these river waters, as with the Thames, we had Canadian pilots on board so they were in charge of the ship. Well – to cut a long story short – they guided us right on to a sand bank – (they were reported to have said they were unaware of this particular sand bank). We eventually found out that we had as a result suffered two rather large holes in the hull.

I was on deck at the time (11.30 am) doing my walk on Deck 7, and felt a rather heavy lurch as we hit. I went down to main deck and some people were really frightened – “Oh – we are going to sink” etc. I did reply to that one that as we were already on the bottom it was unlikely!!! I found it very interesting to observe people's behaviour..Weird eh! Staff started bringing up finger foods as it was lunch time, as everyone had been instructed to remain on deck. There were those who were very very greedy and swooped on them like ravens and cleared the plates, and others who were polite, and just took a couple of bits.

We all had our life jackets on. Wearing it for several hours quite put me off orange for a while!

Being an inquisitive sort I went to the stern to watch operations to save us. During the course of the afternoon the ship tried to dis-lodge itself by going into reverse, but we were well wedged on, and didn't know the extent of our damage. Then we had to wait for divers to be sent to us for when we could get off the sandbank in order to assess the full extent of the damage. In the meantime 3 tugs were dispatched to pull us off – any of you who have cruised will probably have noticed just how big those huge ropes to tie the ship up in port are – well a smaller line was attached from the tug to the end of the rope, and the tug then winched it in very very slowly – there's a lot of drag from the seawater on such a huge diameter rope..... gently, gently the rope edged across the sea towards the tug, and just as it was about to go aboard the tug, bang – it snapped. I watched this same operation take place three times, then they gave up. After that the decision was taken to wait for high tide, and for the tugs to nudge the ship off at the bows. This finally proved effective, and we were towed back to Quebec, where we stayed for two days before being flown back to NY.

Unfortunately both my cases got lost between the ship and Quebec airport, or maybe they never left the ship. Consequently I had to go shopping in New York in the day or so that we stayed there while waiting for our scheduled flights home. This was done in between sending people on helicopter tours over Manhattan, Circle Line tours, or taking people on a Night tour of New York including going up the Empire State Building.

I had only got two days in the UK before having to fly back to lead out another tour for Titan – Boston, the Big Apple, and Bermuda cruise!! But that's another story.

My cases did eventually turn up about 4 weeks later, none the worse for wear.



The tug that came to save us!



## Quick Quiz Answers

### Answers

- a) The 5th sister is playing chess
- b)  $545+5+5=555$
- c) m is in minute, and moment but is not in a 1,00 years
- d) The number has all the numbers from **0-9** exactly once and they are in lexicographical order of their English words. Where 8,549,176,320 becomes eight-five-four-nine-one-seven-six-three-two-zero. ...

# Festive Quiz - Christmas Adverts



Which company has for many years used 'The Holidays are coming' to advertise it's drinks brand ?



Back in 1992 with a soundtrack of 'Magic Moments' whose advert had a little boy presenting a gift of chocolates to the lollypop lady at his crossing?



In 2014 Sainsbury's released their Christmas advert depicting what event from a hundred years earlier?



The most viewed Christmas advert, according to the views on Youtube, was 'Mog's Christmas Calamity' from 2015 which advertised which company?

Wishing all our members a very Happy Christmas and hoping you are able to enjoy the company of friends and family over the festive period.

Leigh Estuary u3a

United Kingdom

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