

## Welcome to the June Edition of our Newsflash

### Speakers Meeting

**Our Monthly Speakers Meeting** is on 3<sup>rd</sup> June at the Leigh Community Centre  
Doors open at 2.00pm for a 2.30pm start

#### My Life In Magic – a talk by John Richard

With over 40 years as a professional entertainer, John regularly performs at many of the leading hotels and venues in London and the Home Counties and has performed magic for numerous well known personalities including Michael Jackson and Kylie Minogue.



### Our Chairman

It is with regret that David Harrison, our wonderful Chairman, has decided to step down from his position on the Leigh Estuary u3a Committee. David has been a great asset to the Committee and they will miss his vast knowledge and great sense of humour. He will carry on until the AGM in November, when hopefully we will have someone to fill his very big shoes.

If you would be interested in taking over as Chairman or becoming a Committee member, please contact the Committee at [leigestuaryu3acommittee@groups.outlook.com](mailto:leigestuaryu3acommittee@groups.outlook.com).

### Membership Renewals & Gift Aid

For anyone who has not yet renewed their membership and wish to do so, renewal forms will be available at the next Speaker's Meeting on 3<sup>rd</sup> June, when you can also pay the £15 fee, either by cheque or cash (right money please!!).

The Committee wanted to pass on their thanks to all those members who completed the Gift Aid section on their renewal forms. Because of this, we have been able to claim back over £2000 in Gift Aid from HMRC which will go into the LEu3a General Fund. Various ways in which we can share this money out to all members will be discussed at a future Committee Meeting and will be announced in due course. The Committee's special thanks goes to Ray Magill who very painstakingly went through a great deal of paperwork to complete the forms in order to make our claim. A job well done – thank you Ray.

## New Website

A reminder that our new website can be found at <https://leighestuary.u3asite.uk/> If you need to contact one of the group leaders or a committee member, there are links on each Group page or under the "Contact" menu section.

If you ever have any comments about the website or would like to see something specific included, then please contact the Website Manager using the link on the "Contact" page.

## Group News

The following Groups all have vacancies:

Art for Pleasure  
Canasta 3 on Wednesday - beginners welcome  
French Conversation  
Just Sew  
Maths for Fun  
Pétanque on Wednesday 10am  
Poetry Group – 2 spaces available  
Photography  
Table tennis on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays



### **We have 2 new groups:**

**Rummikub** (a little bit like canasta but not played with cards). Linda Tull will be running the group, which will run in tandem with Cribbage Group 1 and meet at the same times and venue, which is a Thursday 2pm - 4pm every 2 weeks at Leigh Comm. Centre.

**Chess** – Des Oxland will be running this group. If you are interested in joining or just want to know more then please contact Des using the link on the website. Full details around where, when, cost, etc., will be confirmed once a better idea of numbers is known.

Days Out by Coach - Valerie Lewis reports that the group is a success and is growing in numbers rapidly! So, if you have joined the group but do not intend to travel with them, please will you let her know at [Valerie.U3a.daysout@gmail.com](mailto:Valerie.U3a.daysout@gmail.com). Valerie will be keeping a check on who has not travelled with the group since she has taken over from Moira and will remove those names in a few months' time. If she removes you by mistake please let her know and she will add you back in.

Details for the above groups and their co-ordinators can be found on the Leigh Estuary u3a website under the Groups section or by contacting the Groups Co-Ordinator, Jim Jennett at [jimjennett@btinternet.com](mailto:jimjennett@btinternet.com).

**Group Co-Ordinators** If you have any Group spaces or Group news that you would like to share with the LEu3a members, please contact Trish at: [leu3anewsflash@gmail.com](mailto:leu3anewsflash@gmail.com)

## Scam Watch

Firstly, I would like to highlight a new scam-busting tool. Ask Silver (ask-silver.com) uses AI technology to review and assess if the likes of letters, emails, texts and websites are genuine. Just sign up. It's **free** to use and is accessed simply by sending a photograph or screenshot of the communication or website you are unsure about to a WhatsApp number. All the details are on the Ask Silver website.

People should beware a scam email impersonating Apple. Tricksters claim your iPhone has been infected with 44 viruses which will 'corrupt your SIM card, data, photos and contacts' if you do not take action. The email asks you to install a free 'removal app' which will get rid of the viruses. The link for the 'app' will instead direct you to a malicious website designed to steal your financial details. **Do not click on the link but forward the email to: report@phishing.gov.uk.**

Shoppers should stay vigilant for scam emails, text and phone calls following the cyber incident on Marks & Spencer. M&S say that personal customer data was stolen during the attack but it says no card details were accessed and no passwords were compromised. There is no evidence the information has been shared. Nonetheless, you must stay alert for unsolicited calls, texts or emails from M&S or other well-known retailers. **Do not click on links in unsolicited or suspicious emails. Instead forward the emails to: report@phishing.gov.uk.**

Someone tried to scam me a few weeks ago. I got an email from a friend which said "*Sorry to bother you, Hope you are well. I'm unable to speak over the phone due to serious throat pain caused by laryngitis. Quick question, do you shop using amazon?*"

I replied that I did (along with other friends on his Contacts list) and we all got the same reply: "*Good. I need your help in purchasing an Airbnb e-gift card for a friend's daughter who is battling cancer. Despite all my efforts, I have encountered difficulties buying it online. She is having her birthday today and I'm trying to put a smile on her face. Could you help me get a gift card from Amazon? I will reimburse you for the purchase. Your support will be bringing joy to her amidst her struggles. Let me know if you can handle this so I can tell you the email, amount and a message to include in the gift.*"

Needless to say, I didn't respond to this email but followed my own advice and sent it on to the government phishing email address. They came straight back to me, thanking me and said they would investigate. So it works!!!!

Let's be careful out there!!

## Member's Contribution

### **Five's Record Shop** by John Weaver

The announcement that Fives Records in Leigh Broadway prepares to close its doors after nearly half a century in business stirred a memory for John Weaver, a true story from 2020.

The alarm clock sprung alive at the crack of dawn. The room felt cold, I certainly did not want to rise from my warm bed but needs must. I had to continue with my recuperation from my replacement knee operation just days before. I dressed quickly, wrapped myself in hats, scarves and gloves, then hobbled out gingerly up to and along the Broadway. It was midwinter, usually packed out with people with parked and moving cars, lots of movement, hustle and bustle, but not today with the coronavirus lockdown. There was not a car to be seen, or even a bus, no dogs, no prams, no people, no shops were open, no restaurants, nothing at all. I stopped to tighten up my scarf in the doorway of the vinyl record shop called Fives, in its window I noticed an LP cover for a recent refreshed David Bowie's recording for Space Oddity with its haunting lyrics which I mumbled as I plodded past. I loved that track: 'Ground Control to Major Tom/Ground Control to Major Tom/Take your protein pills and put your helmet on...'



At that precise moment magically at the far end of the high street, out of my sight but somewhere near St Clement's church, I heard the sound of a string instrument being faintly strummed. At first I couldn't quite catch the tune, I thought it was a banjo or a guitar, then a few paces later realised it was actually a ukulele, mournfully playing 'Major Tom', the same song I was mumbling and humming. It stopped me completely in my tracks, the hairs on the back of my head literally stood up on end. I hurried my steps plodding along towards the church.

'This is Major Tom to Ground Control' I found myself now singing softly. 'Can you hear me, Major Tom? Can you hear me, Major Tom?' 'This is Major Tom to Ground Control' the ukulele seem to strum back. 'I'm stepping through the door and I'm floating in a most peculiar way and the stars look very different today'. I again hurried my pace with my walking stick. Then suddenly the sound of the ukulele stopped.

I was by now almost at the church clock when suddenly as I passed by the Costa Coffee shop, I saw the ukulele player sat cross legged in the recessed doorway, his head was down and his ukulele held loosely now in his hands. He slowly looked up at me, he looked pale, cold, hungry and unkempt. He had been playing his ukulele for his supper, but he was the ultimate eternal optimist for there was nothing or nobody apart from me within half a mile of him. In front of him was an empty tin can. Then I noticed hung around his neck was a large sign which had hand-written on it the words: FALKLANDS ISLAND - WAR HERO. I was truly humbled. In the Major Tom song there is a despairing lyric: 'For here am I sitting in a tin can/Far above the world/Planet Earth is blue/And there's nothing I can do'

I felt a lump on my throat and a tear in my eye, but today, in the here and now there was a little something I could do; I reached inside my wallet and then pushed two £10 notes into his tin can and ruffled his greying hair. The harmonica player looked up at me with his big brown watery eyes, grabbed my hand and squeezed it gently, then very softly said "Muchas gracias, señor."

If you would like to write a few words on a topic close to your heart, have an anecdote from a group meeting or something you think readers would be interested in, please do get in touch. Would you consider becoming a regular contributor to a section? Email: [leu3anewsflash@gmail.com](mailto:leu3anewsflash@gmail.com)

## Quiz

Thanks once again to our Quiz setter, Shirley Eastwood, who sends in a quiz for us every month. Shirley does an excellent job and I would like to thank her on your behalf.

1. Armandii, Niobe and Montana are varieties of which plant?
2. If you're watching a funambulist, what is he doing?
3. Herpetology is the study of what creatures?
4. Lancing, Dover and Lincoln have what in common?
5. Which instrument did Django Rheinhardt play?
6. Jack Draper and Katie Boulter are the British No. 1's in which sport?
7. Which are furthest North: Shetlands or Orkney Islands?
8. What does a hygrometer measure?
9. How many Bond films did Sean Connery appear in?
10. The Von Trapp family were the subject of which film?
11. What was the original name of a Snickers bar?
12. Which guitarist, nickname Slow hand, turned 80 in March?
13. There are 4 branches of The Tate gallery. Where are they situated?
14. David Cornwell is the real name of which 'spy' novelist?
15. Who painted The Starry Night whilst in an asylum?
16. Which rail company has just been renationalised?
17. Jane Torvill and Christopher Dean skated to Olympic gold in 1984 using what music?
18. The Final Reckoning is the 8th film in which series?
19. Which country has been voted the happiest for the 8th year running?
20. What was the name of the dog in The Magic Roundabout?



## June's Pause for Thought

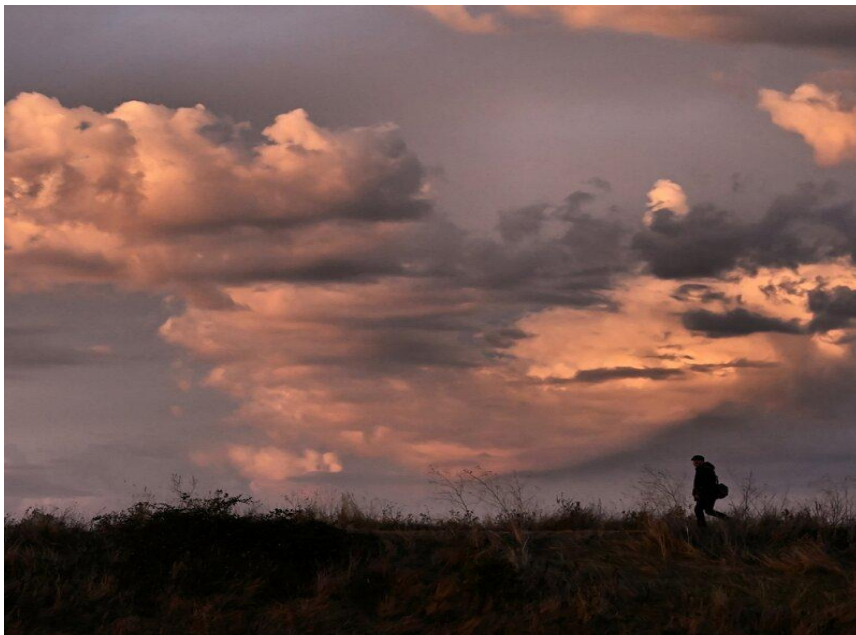
- The spirit never ages. It stays forever young. – Lailah Gifty Akita
- To keep the heart unwrinkled — to be hopeful, kindly, cheerful, reverent — that is to triumph over old age – Thomas Bailey Aldrich
- Almost all my middle-aged and elderly acquaintances, including me, feel about 25 — unless we haven't had our coffee, in which case we feel 107 – Martha Beck
- Aging is an extraordinary process where you become the person you always should have been – David Bowie
- He who is of a calm and happy nature will hardly feel the pressure of age, but to him who is of an opposite disposition, youth and age are equally a burden – Cephalus
- Old age is a good and pleasant thing. It is true you are gently shouldered off the stage, but then you are given such a comfortable front stall as spectator.” – Confucius
- You don't have a future when you refuse to accept the former generation. Simple – Petra Hermans
- Youth is the gift of nature, but age is a work of art – Stanislaw Jerzy Lec
- In the end, it's not the years in your life that count. It's the life in your years – Abraham Lincoln
- It's not the spectre of aging that haunts me. Rather, it's the far greater fear of having aged and having nothing to show for the aging – Craig D. Lounsbrough
- The great thing about getting older is that you get a chance to tell the people in your life who matter what they mean to you – Mike Love
- Old age is like everything else. To make a success of it, you've got to start young.” – Theodore Roosevelt
- Wrinkles should merely indicate where smiles have been – Mark Twain
- Nobody grows old merely by living a number of years. We grow old by deserting our ideals. Years may wrinkle the skin, but to give up enthusiasm wrinkles the soul – Samuel Ullman
- The longer I live, the more beautiful life becomes – Frank Lloyd Wright



## Quiz Answers

1. Clematis
2. Walking a tightrope
3. Frogs
4. USA state capitals
5. Guitar
6. Tennis
7. Shetland Isles
8. Humidity
9. 7: Dr. No, From Russia with Love, Goldfinger, Thunderball, You only live Twice, Diamonds are Forever, Never say Never Again.
10. The Sound of Music
11. Marathon
12. Eric Clapton
13. Tate Gallery and Tate Modern in London; Liverpool and St. Ives Cornwall
14. John le Carre
15. Vincent van Gogh
16. South Western Railway
17. Ravel's Bolero
18. Mission Impossible
19. Finland
20. Dougall

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*Photo courtesy of the LEu3a Photography Group*