

## Welcome to the May Edition of our Newsflash

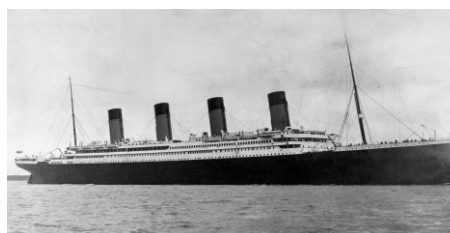
### Speakers Meeting

**Our Monthly Speakers Meeting** is on 6<sup>th</sup> May at the Leigh Community Centre

Doors open at 2.00pm for a 2.30pm start

#### Titanic – Her True Story From Launch to Loss

A talk by Steve Lester who will tell us the full and true story of the Titanic.



### New Website

Leigh Estuary u3a now has a new website. It is based on the u3a Trust SiteWorks system. For a few weeks both the old and new sites will be running in parallel ahead of the old site closing fully towards the end of May.

It will take a while for the search engines to find their way to the new site so please take a note of the new website address: <https://leighestuary.u3asite.uk/> In fact, it may be best if you save it in your favourites so you'll always be able to find it.

There are still some elements that need to be added but in the meantime, if there is any information you'd like to see on the website then please let us know by contacting the website manager using the contact form on the new website (you will find it under the 'Contacts' section).

### Group News

The following Groups all have vacancies:

- Art for Pleasure
- Canasta on Wednesday - beginners welcome
- Craft Group
- Just Sew
- Maths for Fun
- Pétanque on Wednesday 10am
- Poetry Group – 2 spaces available
- Photography
- Table tennis on Wednesdays and Fridays
- WhatsApp2 – a new group meeting monthly



Days Out by Coach group has spaces available for the 5<sup>th</sup> June trip to Canterbury. Please contact Valerie Lewis if you are interested at: [valerie.u3a.daysout@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.u3a.daysout@gmail.com)

This is a photo of the Thursday Pétanque group at the recent Whitehall Pétanque finals where U3A members Gerry Pudney, Peter Jakes and Victor Beadle played in the triples Champions final. Peter's team was triumphant but with very close scores of 13/11 and 13/12. It was a very enjoyable match, played in the best of spirits.



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

Drivers should beware a scam email impersonating the Driver & Vehicle Licencing Agency (DVLA). Scammers claim that your latest vehicle tax payment was unsuccessful and you must update your payment details as soon as possible via a link. The email says you could be fined up to £1,000 if you don't pay your vehicle tax on time and your details could be passed on to a debt collection agency. **Do not click on the link as it leads to a scam website designed to steal your personal information.**

Drivers should beware of a scam email purporting to be from oil and gas company BP. The email reads 'answer and win'. Tricksters claim you have been chosen to get a 'car emergency kit' which appears to contain such items as a windscreen scraper, gloves and pliers. It asks you to 'click here to claim' but this will lead to you a phishing website with a short survey designed to pilfer your personal and financial details. As always, **do not click on links in the email but forward the email to: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).**

Facebook users should beware of a scam offering a skincare set from Sol de Janeiro for £1.95. Scammers claim their 'daughter works for Sol de Janeiro' and asks you to fill in a questionnaire to get hundreds of pounds knocked off the set which retails for £215. Which? says the posts come from a hacked account. As always, **do not click on the link** as it aims to steal your personal and financial details. Instead, report the post by using the three dots on the right of the page and clicking 'report'.

Let's be careful out there!!

## Member's Contribution

### Gas Comes To Old Leigh by Carol Edwards

The residents of the old town were reluctant to adopt the idea of cooking and heating their homes with gas. A meeting was called in 1873 where it was proposed to introduce gas to the village. Provided by the Leigh Gas And Light Company, the cost to each cottage would be 1/4s or 1/8s a year, which was 75% cheaper than using candles and oil. The proceedings were presided over by Rev. Cannon King and when the final count was taken, 83 were in favour 27 against. With their proposal finally accepted the company built a large gas works. Today if you come over the flyover into the High Street , you will be greeted by Osborne's fish establishment on your right. This is where the imposing gas building stood. The company's next move was to obtain permission from the Tilbury and Southend Railway Company, who operated the train service through the middle of the village, to lay gas pipes in New Road. Permission was granted. In 1883, a gas explosion on the 23rd December near the premises of R.F. Emery blew a large manhole cover some 50 feet into the air, coming down through the roof of the blacksmiths. Fortunately, there was no one inside at that time but several passers-by were hit by debris. Later that same day, there was a second explosion at the same spot, on this occasion accompanied by flames. The accident was caused by negligence by the gas works foreman, who was dismissed. Accidents at the works were not uncommon and deaths due to gas poisoning occurred as late as the 1930s. Mrs Ellen Thorp of Leigh Hill was discovered in her bed. It was thought that the flame on her gas fire had accidentally gone out. The Rev. Thomas Longhurst, a retired Minister, and his wife were found in their apartment on Pall Mall. Death was caused by a faulty gas tap. In 1915, 28 incendiary and high explosive bombs, dropped by the enemy, were later recovered from the foreshore near the gas works. All had failed to explode.



In 1953 the Borough Engineer reported that the condition of the old gas works building was now in such a state of disrepair as to render it dangerous to the general public. Demolition followed shortly after at the cost of £80.

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. Which Jewish festival takes place at the same time as Easter?
2. What was Myanmar called before 1989?
3. Which dance is performed in 3/4 time?
4. Who is Tigger, Owl, Rabbit and Piglet's best friend?
5. Who is the shadow chancellor?
6. Which country has the Gibson and Simpson deserts?
7. Which dessert is named after an opera singer?
8. Where in your body is the cuboid bone?
9. Complete the band's name, Bruce Hornsby and the \_\_\_\_.
10. When did we first get colour tv in the UK?
11. Which programme was the first to be broadcast in colour by the BBC?
12. Which is this year's city of culture?
13. What was St.Paul's name before his conversion?
14. Which game did Josh Wardle invent?
15. Where did this year's Race Across the World commence?
16. How much is a current TV license?
17. What would you expect to see in an arboretum?
18. In which ocean are the Chagos Islands?
19. Who painted at least 250 versions of "Water lilies"?
20. Which Premier league team won their first major trophy in 70 years in March?



## May's Pause for Thought

All things seem possible in May - *Edwin Way Teale*

As full of spirit as the month of May, and as gorgeous as the sun in Midsummer." -  
*William Shakespeare*

Sweet April showers Do spring May flowers - *T. Tusser*

Be like a flower and turn your face to the sun - *Kahlil Gibran*

But winter lingering chills the lap of May - *Oliver Goldsmith*

Among the changing months, May stands confest The sweetest, and in fairest colours  
dressed - *James Thomson*

What potent blood hath modest May - *Ralph W. Emerson*

O May, sweet-voice one, going thus before, Forever June may pour her warm red wine  
Of life and passions,--sweeter days are thine! - *Helen Hunt Jackson*

Rough winds do shake the darling buds of May, And summer's lease hath all too short a  
date - *William Shakespeare*

Sweet May hath come to love us, Flowers, trees, their blossoms don; And through the  
blue heavens above us, The very clouds move on - *Heinrich Heine*

As full of spirit as the month of May, and as gorgeous as the sun in Midsummer -  
*William Shakespeare*

Hebe's here, May is here! The air is fresh and sunny; And the miser-bees are busy  
Hoarding golden honey - *Thomas Bailey Aldrich*

Long stormy spring-time, wet contentious April, winter chilling the lap of very May; but  
at length the season of summer does come - *Thomas Carlyle*

May more than any other month of the year wants us to feel most alive - *Fennel Hudson*

May is a month of rebirth, of renewed vitality and energy - *Lailah Gifty Akita*

And all the world is glad with May - *John Burroughs*

May is the month of expectation, the month of wishes, the month of hope - *Emily Brontë*

The month of May is the gateway to summer - *Jean Hersey*



## Quiz Answers

1. Passover
2. Burma
3. Waltz
4. Winnie the Pooh
5. Mel Stride
6. Australia
7. Peach Melba
8. Side of the foot
9. The Range
10. July 1967
11. Wimbledon championships
12. Bradford
13. Saul of Tarsus
14. Wordle
15. From the Great Wall of China
16. £174.50
17. Trees
18. Indian Ocean
19. Claude Monet
20. Newcastle United (Carabao Cup)

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