

## Welcome to the July Edition of our Newsflash

### Speakers Meeting

**Our Monthly Speakers Meeting** is on 1<sup>st</sup> July at the Leigh Community Centre

Doors open at 2.00pm for a 2.30pm start

#### **Dark, Dangerous and Deadly Victorian Fashion**

**– a talk by June Piper**

Discover the dark, dangerous and deadly fashions of the Victorian era. Who were the Mad Hatters? Why was green such a deadly colour? Why was the crinoline such a dangerous fashion trend? Find out the answers to these questions and more.



### New Chairman

Don't forget, if you are be interested in taking over as Chairman or becoming a Committee member, please contact the Committee at:

[leighestuaryu3acommittee@groups.outlook.com](mailto:leighestuaryu3acommittee@groups.outlook.com).

### Summer Event

Just a reminder, this year's Summer Event will be held on 7<sup>th</sup> August at The Estuary Club, 1386 London Road, Leigh on Sea SS9 2UJ. It will be 60s & 70s Disco, DJ'd by Daryl Easlea, from 2pm to 4pm, doors open at 1.45pm. Tickets must be shown on entry. Tickets are £10.00 and will include a tea or coffee and cake. There will also be a free raffle (drawn from your ticket number). There is also a bar if you would like to purchase other drinks at your own expense

Tickets will be on sale at the Speaker's Meeting on Tuesday 1<sup>st</sup> July. **If you are unable to attend the Speaker's Meeting but would still like to come to the disco, please email me at: [leu3anewsflash@gmail.com](mailto:leu3anewsflash@gmail.com) with your name and membership number and a ticket will be waiting for you at the door.**

The Estuary Club is at 1386 London Road, Leigh, next to Leigh Timber yard and opposite the Chartwell Hospital and Highlands Surgery. Canvey Road bus stop is just a few yards away, whether coming from Southend direction or Hadleigh.

Many of you will remember Daryl as a very popular Speaker at our monthly meetings, who has a vast knowledge of music from 'our' era, so it should be an enjoyable, lively afternoon. I hope you will come and join us.

## Group News

**New Groups:** A Wellness group, a Boardgame group and a Mahjong group have all been suggested by members. If you are interested in running these groups or joining them, please let our Groups Co-Ordinator, Jim Jennett, know. Contact details are at the end of this section.

The following Groups all have vacancies:

Art for Pleasure  
French Conversation  
Just Sew  
Table tennis on Mondays, Wednesdays and Fridays

Just a note to add about the Wednesday Table Tennis Group – **this group is in danger of folding** unless they get some more members. They meet every Wednesday morning at the MegaCentre Rayleigh. There would always be someone who could offer lifts if people don't have transport. All abilities welcome.

Members of the Craft Group are busy knitting and/or crocheting poppies to support Southend Pier's appeal for poppies to yarnbomb the pier for Remembrance Day this year. Anyone wishing to contribute can find details, including knitting and crocheting patterns, on their website [www.southendpier.co.uk](http://www.southendpier.co.uk).

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

Households should beware a scam email that impersonates high street bank NatWest. Fraudsters say that your account needs to be 'reauthenticated' by clicking on the link in the email. While it may look genuine, it is sent from a random email address and has nothing to do with the bank. The link is an attempt to steal your personal and financial information. **Do not click on the link but forward the email to: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).**

Households should beware a scam email claiming to be from streaming platform Disney+. Fraudsters say your 'subscription renewal payment has been declined' and asks you to click on a link to input new payment information to avoid any disruption to your use of Disney's service. The link is an attempt to steal your personal and financial information. **Do not click on link but forward the emails to: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).**

Let's be careful out there!!

## Member's Contribution

### Chalkwell Park by Carol Edwards

Many of you reading this article will have visited Chalkwell Park, with your children or grandchildren, simply enjoyed a walk through its rose garden or sat beneath the great oak tree. The vast area around the park was once prime farm land that stretched down as far as the River Thames. Standing in front of the large gates on the London Road, at the far end of the path,

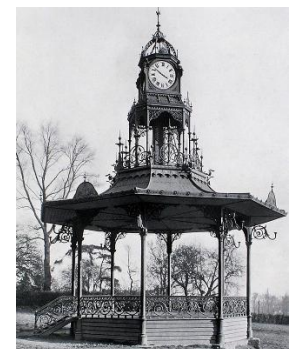


you can see Chalkwell Hall, which was purchased by George Pendrill Mason in 1830. A much smaller version than today as he extended the building during his time there. It was by no means the first house to have stood on the original farm, to accommodate the farmer and his family. Records showed that in the time of Henry V11, there were various other types of habitats scattered about the estate, simple two roomed dwellings known as hall houses, timbered framed, with thatched roofs, where serfs and their families lived. Sheds were also provided for some of the livestock. George Mason lived in the Hall for over 20 years and when he died in 1861, the land and the Hall were passed down the family, remaining in private ownership until one Arthur Legg, sold the whole estate to Southend Corporation in 1903 for £20,000.

The Corporation immediately sold the surrounding acres to a development company, keeping the Hall and grounds to be made available for public use and to be known as Chalkwell Hall Park. As early as 1907, Westcliff Cricket Club played their first game there, with Trevor Bailey being their most famous player. A further four years would pass before the club could afford to erect a permanent pavilion at the cost of £25. Accommodation for staff to help maintain the park was occupied in 1911 by a head gardener, whose wife and three children lived with him.

The town's bandstand was transferred from Pier Hill in 1914 but was dismantled in around 1940. Held on the large front field, the annual funfair in August began around the 1920s, organised by Southend Carnival. In the decades that followed, this same field was used for football practice, charitable events including a fete organised by the local Darby & Joan club.

Tennis courts were added in the 1930's and are still available today for the tennis players among you.



The Raven family (well known Southend drapers) donated the gates at the entrance to the car park from Chalkwell Avenue in 1952, in memory of Ronald Raven who had died a prisoner of the Japanese in the World War II . That same year, a small garden of remembrance was laid commemorating all those who died during the conflict. A small zoo added to the park's attractions, with rabbits, Lulu the bear and peacocks, whose cries could always be heard wherever you were in the park,

During that same decade, the small café opposite the cricket ground was put up for sale and purchased by the Jaquest family. In time, they extended the café into the Function Suite we know today and where members of LEu3a have enjoyed afternoon teas. The most controversial event held there was when the local Conservative club booked one Enock Powell to speak at one of their dinners.

Today the park stands by the busy London Road for all to enjoy. From the children's play areas to the many benches provided for those seeking a moment's escape from the hustle and bustle of the outside world,

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 clothing is given to the winner of the US Masters Golf tournament?
2. Which city changed its name from Edo in 1867?
3. Which local singer who died in 2022 has a C2C carriage named after him?
4. Who won this year's French open men's singles?
5. Aviophobia is the fear of what?
6. What is Erica Jong's most well-known book?
7. Blue is the colour of which subject in Trivial Pursuit?
8. On which radio station can you hear Pop Master, hosted by Ken Bruce?
9. If you have rhinitis from what are you suffering?
10. What was first published in the newspaper New York World's Sunday edition in December 1913?
11. Which 80 year old pop star will play on the legend stage at Glastonbury on Sunday?
12. What is the name of the farm where the above festival takes place?
13. Which river has tributaries including Kennet, Lea, Coln and Churn?
14. American Benedict Arnold became a notorious traitor during which war?
15. Which is the odd one out- sun, black, koala or spectacled?
16. What was the final score between Oldham and Southend at Wembley?
17. Who is the present Archbishop of Canterbury?
18. Bucharest is the capital city of which European country?
19. What is the number of the open top bus serving the seafront?
20. Who played Al Capone in the 1987 film The Untouchables?

## July's Pause for Thought

- \* A true friend never gets in your way unless you happen to be going down - Arnold H. Glasow
- \* Walking with a friend in the dark is better than walking alone in the light - Helen Keller
- \* A real friend is one who walks in when the rest of the world walks out - Walter Winchell
- \* There are no strangers here; Only friends you haven't yet met - William Butler Yeats
- \* A friend is one who knows you but loves you just the same - Elbert Hubbard
- \* One of the most beautiful qualities of true friendship is to understand and to be understood - Lucius Annaeus Seneca
- \* Lots of people want to ride with you in the limo, but what you want is someone who will take the bus with you when the limo breaks down - Oprah Winfrey
- \* The only way to have a friend is to be one - Ralph Waldo Emerson
- \* Friends are the siblings God never gave us - Mencius
- \* Remember that the most valuable antiques are dear old friends - H. Jackson Brown
- \* A single rose can be my garden... a single friend, my world - Leo Buscaglia
- \* Love is the only force capable of transforming an enemy into a friend - Martin Luther King, Jr.
- \* Of all possessions a friend is the most precious - Herodotus
- \* My best friend is the one who brings out the best in me - Henry Ford
- \* The greatest gift of life is friendship, and I have received it - Hubert H. Humphrey
- \* A friend is someone who gives you total freedom to be yourself - Jim Morrison
- \* One loyal friend is worth ten thousand relatives - Euripides
- \* Be slow to fall into friendship; but when thou art in, continue firm and constant - Socrates
- \* The language of friendship is not words but meanings - Henry David Thoreau
- \* I have learned that to be with those I like is enough - Walt Whitman
- \* As iron sharpens iron, so a friend sharpens a friend - King Solomon
- \* A man's friendships are one of the best measures of his worth - Charles Darwin
- \* Friendship... is not something you learn in school. But if you haven't learned the meaning of friendship, you really haven't learned anything - Muhammad Ali
- \* A friend to all is a friend to none - Aristotle
- \* Do I not destroy my enemies when I make them my friends? - Abraham Lincoln
- \* I don't need a friend who changes when I change and who nods when I nod; my shadow does that much better - Plutarch
- \* A friend is a gift you give yourself - Robert Louis Stevenson



## Quiz Answers

1. A green jacket
2. Tokyo
3. Wilko Johnson
4. Carlos Alvaraz
5. Fear of flying
6. The Fear of Flying!!
7. Geography
8. Greatest Hits Radio
9. Hay fever
10. The first crossword puzzle (first called Word Cross)
11. Rod Stewart
12. Worthy Farm
13. The Thames
14. The American War of Independence
15. Koala, not a bear
16. 3-2 to Oldham
17. Trick question, Justin Welby resigned in November, no replacement as yet.
18. Romania
19. 99
20. Robert de Niro

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*Photo courtesy of the LEu3a Photography Group*