

## Welcome to the October Edition of our Newsflash

### Speakers Meeting

**Our Monthly Speakers Meeting** is on 7<sup>th</sup> October at the Leigh Community Centre  
Doors open at 2.00pm for a 2.30pm start

**British War Graves** – a talk by Simon Last

Many of our soldiers were killed on the battlefields or died in a field hospital and were buried near to where they were killed. Simon will inform us further and give us the background behind these heroes.



### Winter Event

Following the great success of our Summer Disco, we have decided to hold a Winter 60s&70s Disco. Rather than holding it over the Christmas period, we will be holding it on Thursday, 8<sup>th</sup> January at the Leigh Community Centre and Daryl Easlea had kindly agreed to DJ again. We hope that you will be able to join us for a bit of January cheer. More details will be included in the November Newsflash.

### Group News

The Days Out Group still have a few spaces on a trip to Bury St. Edmunds on 15<sup>th</sup> October cost £20 for travel only. Please contact Valerie Lewis ([valerie.u3a.daysout@gmail.com](mailto:valerie.u3a.daysout@gmail.com)).

Church Visits Group paid a visit to St Nicholas Church, Canewdon on Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> September. There were 16 of us and we were made very welcome by three members of the congregation, Kay, Martin and Joan. We were intrigued by the many and varied stories about the church and its beginnings over a thousand years ago. The tower, built around the time of the Battle of Agincourt in 1415, was explored and we heard all about the bells, particularly the set of 10 cast at Whitechapel Foundry just before it was closed and the touching story of how they came to be there. Coffee and cake was provided and we had a thoroughly enjoyable morning. A very worthwhile visit. Thank you!

We then adjourned to The Anchor in the High Street for lunch.

The following Groups all have vacancies:

- \* Canasta on a Wednesday
- \* French Conversation (intermediate and above)
- \* Just Sew
- \* Maths for fun
- \* Play reading 2 (3 places)
- \* Table tennis on a Monday
- \* Table tennis on a Wednesday
- \* Tap dancing (complete beginners welcome)



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

Pension savers should watch out for scams targeting their life savings, with £48,000 lost every day last year.. Fraudsters call or email posing as investment firms or pension providers, pressuring people to move their pensions into fake schemes. Legitimate providers will not tell you that you must move funds immediately. **You shouldn't give out personal information or click on any unsolicited links in emails. If you think you have been targeted, visit [actionfraud.police.uk](http://actionfraud.police.uk) or call 0300 1232040.**

Households should beware of an email impersonating energy provider Utility Warehouse. Scammers claim there's been a login to your account from a new device or browser. They claim your account has been accessed in Australia and, if this wasn't you, you should 'review your security'. Tricksters urge you to click on a link that will lead to a malicious website designed 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).**

After the recent Winter Fuel Payment announcements, scammers have been busy impersonating the Department for Work and Pensions. Fake messages include scam links to websites designed to steal your personal and financial information. The DWP never send text messages or emails requesting your bank details for winter fuel payment purposes. In most cases, the payment is given automatically. The only people who need to claim are those who are of state pension age and have never received the payment before and they should contact the DWP. Details of how to do that online at: [gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions](http://gov.uk/government/organisations/department-for-work-pensions). **Do not click on any links but forward emails to: [report@phishing.gov.uk](mailto:report@phishing.gov.uk).**

Let's be careful out there!!

Member's Contribution

**The Shoeburyness Boom - from John Weaver**

The Shoeburyness Boom confusingly refers to two different defensive barriers across most of the Thames estuary built in the mid-20th century. The first was built in 1939 to protect shipping and the city of London, from attack by the Germans in their U2 submarines from torpedo attacks. It was dismantled after the war but parts of it still remain scattered around.

The second boom, a 2km part of which you can see today, was built between 1950 and 1953 to forestall access to the Thames estuary by the Soviet submarines during the Cold War, after a top secret report by the M.O.D. strongly recommended its immediate construction in 1950. The M.O.D. was in overall charge of its construction. Unfortunately the northern boom on East Beach side was not secured properly. And on one stormy, misty night on a high spring ebb tide, it floated out to sea. When the mist lifted in the morning, nobody could find it. The M.O.D. looked everywhere, there was a general panic, confusion reigned. They even thought it might have been towed out to sea by Soviet submarine crews and deliberately sank in the channel, but a few days later, it floated back ashore near Margate. It had to be towed back to be reassembled, which took another six months.

There was much finger pointing, confusion and embarrassment but the M.O.D. managed to keep it out of the newspapers using the Official Secrets Act. No sooner was it re built than another top secret report from the M.O.D. recommended its immediate destruction because, 'the boom is now totally useless, the threat has now shifted from submarines to nuclear-armed bombers.

How were we to know? My father, who was stationed at Shoebury Garrison at various times always used to say, "How on Earth did we ever win the war?"



*Location of the boom*



*Remains of a pile barrage and wrecked boats*



*Close-up of a pile barrage*



*Submarine nets on the Thames estuary*



*A Royal Navy vessel defends a gate the Shoeburyness boom*

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 poison can be made from apple seeds and apricot kernels?
2. How many people have walked on the moon?
3. Posingford Bridge in East Sussex is famous for which activity?
4. Which monument would you see at the top of the Champs-Elysees?
5. What does RAM stand for?
6. In T.S. Elliot's "The Waste Land", which is the cruellest month?
7. Armadillo is the only creature which can spread which disease?
8. Which is the longest mountain range in the world?
9. Mia Motley is the Prime Minister of which independent commonwealth nation?
10. Who is the Greek god of the sea?
11. In the Bible who were Adam and Eve's 3 sons?
12. King Charles recently visited the oldest woman in the world (she's 116!). Through how many British monarchs' reigns has she been alive?
13. Which number between 1-100 has the most syllables?
14. Which is the smallest US state?
15. Which English king fought at the Battle of Agincourt?
16. In which European city would you walk across the Charles Bridge?
17. Which illness did the WHO declare eradicated in 1980?
18. Which is the oldest recorded sport in the world?
19. Byzantium was a previous name of which city?
20. In what would a lepidopterist be interested?

## October's Pause for Thought

Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all the other seasons – Jim Bishop

Autumn...the year's last, loveliest smile – William Cullen Bryant

Autumn shows us how beautiful it is to let things go – Unknown

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower – Albert Camus

I'm so glad I live in a world where there are Octobers – L.M Montgomery

Every leaf speaks bliss to me, fluttering from the autumn tree – Emily Brontë

There are two times of the year: autumn and waiting for autumn – Unknown

As long as autumn lasts, I shall not have hands, canvas and colours enough to paint the beautiful things I see – Vincent Van Gogh

Autumn leaves don't fall, they fly. They take their time and wander on this their only chance to soar – Delia Owens

When everything looks like a magical oil painting, you know you are in autumn – Mehmet Murat Ildan

Autumn is a second spring when every leaf is a flower — Albert Camus

The heart of autumn must have broken here and poured its treasure upon the leaves — Charlotte Bates

Autumn leaves don't fall, they fly. They take their time and wander on this their only chance to soar — Delia Owens

Autumn burned brightly, a running flame through the mountains, a torch flung to the trees — Faith Baldwin

Autumn is the hardest season. The leaves are all falling, and they're falling like they're falling in love with the ground — Andrea Gibson

Autumn is as joyful and sweet as an untimely end — Remy de Gourmant

Anyone who thinks fallen leaves are dead has never watched them dancing on a windy day — Shira Tamir



## Quiz Answers

1. Cyanide
2. 12 (Armstrong, Aldrin, Conrad, Bean, Shepard, Mitchell, Scott, Irwin, Young, Duke, Cernan and Schmit)
3. Pooh sticks
4. Arc de Triomphe
5. Random access memory
6. April
7. Leprosy
8. Andes
9. Barbados
10. Poseidon
11. Cain, Abel and Seth
12. 6
13. 77
14. Rhode Island
15. Henry V (fifth)
16. Prague
17. Smallpox
18. Wrestling (15,000 years, cave paintings depict it)
19. Istanbul
20. Butterflies and moths

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