

Welcome to the April 2026 Edition of our Newsflash

Committee Members Update

- * Jim Jennett, previously Groups Co-Ordinator, is now the Membership Secretary
- * Barry Freshwater has taken over as Groups Co-Ordinator.
- * Julie Carter has taken on the new role of Almoner

We wish these valued members of our Committee all the best in their new responsibilities

Speakers Meeting

Our Monthly Speakers Meeting is on 7th April at the Leigh Community Centre
Doors open at 2.00pm for a 2.30pm start

AS A REMINDER, THE DOORS WILL NOT OPEN BEFORE 2PM FOR THIS MEETING. PLEASE DO NOT ARRIVE EARLY.

80s Music Scene - Daryl Easlea

Back by popular demand is Daryl Easlea, who will take us on a musical trip down memory lane to the 80s



Group News

New Group - We are starting a New Members Coffee Group for those who have recently joined or who will be joining us throughout the year. This is so that new members can meet fellow new members and chat with our "buddies" Linda Tull and Mavis Miller along with Groups Co-Ordinator Barry Freshwater to welcome them into Leigh Estuary u3a and help them with any assistance on joining groups. The first meeting will take place on the 14th May at 10.30am and will continue every 2nd Thursday of the month venue details to follow.

The following Groups all have vacancies:

- * Art for Pleasure
- * Just Sew
- * Quiz
- * Table Tennis Monday / Wednesday / Friday
- * Bridge (Improvers)
- * Photography



Improv Group got off to a good start with their first session. The next one is at Leigh Community Centre on April 17th and anyone is welcome to join us. Please contact Tony Barton, email: tb@redkiteworld.com or mobile: 07813 790186

LEu3a Groups has a Facebook page: <https://www.facebook.com/groups/149723975616396> You will need to apply to be added and will probably be asked for your membership number.

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, Barry Freshwater at barry.freshwater@gmail.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

Scam Watch

Current top scams include AI-powered deepfakes, WhatsApp "Hi Mum" family impersonation, fraudulent investment opportunities and bogus "safe account" bank transfers. Criminals frequently use phishing, fake, and social media ads to steal personal data, bank details, or cryptocurrency. Always verify urgent requests, avoid upfront payments to strangers, and report suspicious activity. Key scam types to watch for:

- **AI & Impersonation Scams:** Fraudsters use AI to clone voices or create deepfake videos, often pretending to be trusted officials or family members. WhatsApp scams often start with "Hi Mum/Mate" from a new number, claiming a lost phone and asking for money.
- **Financial & Investment Scams:** Fake investment opportunities, particularly high-interest bonds falsely branded as HSBC UK, are common. Scammers also set up fake sites offering "safe accounts" or impersonate the Financial Services Compensation Scheme (FSCS) to steal funds.
- **Job & Employment Scams:** Fraudsters offer fake remote work, promising high pay for simple tasks, then request payment for training or fees.
- **Travel & Ticket Scams:** Criminals create fake travel websites or sell bogus tickets on social media (Facebook/Instagram), demanding bank transfers for tickets to sold-out events.
- **Government & Service Impersonation:** Fraudsters pose as the government regarding "Winter Fuel Payments" or the "digital switchover" of phone lines to collect personal information.

How to Protect Yourself:

- **Never** click links or share bank details from unexpected messages.
- **Verify** calls by hanging up and calling the organization back on a trusted, official number.
- **Avoid** paying for goods via bank transfer; use protected methods like credit cards.
- **Be Sceptical.** Legitimate employers, banks or authorities will never ask for payment or sensitive information up front.

Let's be careful out there!!

The Hairy-footed Flower Bee From Richard Lytheer

This delightful 'solitary' bee, is one of the earliest -- emerging in March. It is just one of around 275 species in UK, which includes 24 Bumble & 250 Solitary Bees --and our one-and-only (Western) Honey Bee, farmed by mankind for aeons (& the only species of bee there is in the minds of most of our population & the media).

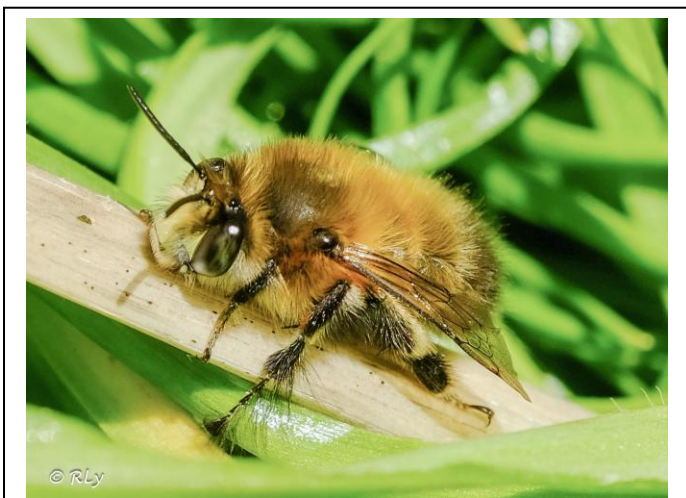
Most bees are active only in the warmer months, although around here, we have a few winter-active Bumble Bee colonies & I have seen them on Christmas Day! Early species of bees start appearing in the spring

By the time you read this in April, you will be able to see both male & female Hairy-footed Flower Bees in gardens & parks. This particular species is unusual because males & females look completely different. First time I ever saw them was in Belton Gardens, opposite Memory House. I couldn't understand why a string of honey bees was chasing a bumble. Only later did I realise that this was a bunch of (brown) males chasing a (black) female. *Every day's a school day* -- and this encounter inspired my interest (some say obsession) in Bees & small creatures.

In fact, females are often mistaken for small bumble bees. Completely black with orange hairs on her rear leg, though this pollen-carrying 'scopa' is more often seen as the colour of its load.



Female, tongue sheath extended, carrying bright-orange pollen from Red Dead-nettle



Yellow-faced male showing its 'hairy' mid-leg

Males, on the other hand, are fuzzy, tubby brown bees with yellow faces. The common name comes from the fact that males have long, spidery hairs on their middle leg. The ladies don't have hairy legs but can be susceptible to the scents that a mate transfers on to said hairs prior to mating. Solitary bees generally mate just once, though females are often pestered for a while afterwards. Once mated, a female HfFB builds a nest in the ground & collects pollen to provision a brood-cell into which she lays a single egg. Over several weeks, she will work industriously to do this perhaps twenty more times. Once the last cell is sealed her job is over and she will die. The next generation of these bees will emerge next spring when the cycle continues.

Meanwhile males just drink nectar, lounge about in the sun & maybe chase the odd female (and almost everything else, they are not very discriminating) in the hope of mating. After a few weeks, they die, so while males appear before females, the reverse is also true, and females can persist, working hard, into June.

These bees love Red Dead-nettle (oh no! you probably think that's a weed -- the Parks Department certainly do, despite my best efforts) & are also seen darting around Wallflower & Pulmonaria (Lungwort). which I have planted in my sunny garden to ensure I always see them buzzing on my doorstep!

Happy hunting!!

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

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. What did all festival goers receive at the first Glastonbury?
2. Who was the third in this trio,: Martha Longhurst, Minnie Caldwell and?
3. Where in the UK are these airports: -Tingwall, Papa Stour, Foula?
4. “One is Fun” was a cookery book written by which famous cook?
5. Jessie Buckley won best actress Oscar for which film?
6. Who was the Greek god of the sea?
7. Which band produced The Joshua Tree?
8. Which station in London would you catch a train to Liverpool?
9. In which English city are most of Peter James “Grace “ novels set?
10. Which is further west, Bristol or Edinburgh?
11. Which children’s character’s full name is Patrick Clifton?
12. Which is the largest sports stadium in the UK?
13. What are the 2 drinks used in the phonetic alphabet?
14. Polly put the kettle on, but who took it off again?
15. In which film would you see The Pink Ladies?
16. Which is the longest river in Wales?
17. As My Guitar Gently Weeps was written by which Beatle?
18. What would you be awarded for a win on Countdown on channel 4?
19. From which country do we get Oyster Bay wine?
20. What was dispensed with at Wimbledon in 2025

April's Pause for Thought

Oh to be in England now that April's there – Robert Browning

April is a reminder that life is a beautiful, ever-renewing cycle – E.E. Cummings

No winter lasts forever; no spring skips its turn. April is a promise that May is bound to keep, and we know it – Hal Borland

April, the angel of the months, the young love of the year – Vita Sackville-West

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

April prepares her green traffic light and the world thinks, 'Go!' – Christopher Morley

Our spring has come at last with the soft laughter of April suns and shadow of April showers – Byron Caldwell Smith

There is no glory in star or blossom till looked upon by a loving eye; There is no fragrance in April breezes till breathed with joy as they wander by – William Cullen Bryant

April rains transform fields from plain, to lovely wildflower-filled terrain – Unknown

April rain is not a cause to complain; it's busy preparing the terrain for spring to sustain – Unknown

April is a reminder that something better is always around the corner – Unknown

Hello, April. Please, be a month of rebirth, regrowth, and renewal – Anonymous

April is the month of dreams come true – John Baillie

April is the time to turn over a new leaf – Terri Guillemets

Oh, the lovely fickleness of an April day! – W. H. Gibson

April showers bring May flowers, but they also bring renewal and growth – Mandy Harrison

April is the gateway to the joys of summer – Fennel Hudson

April is a moment of joy for those who have survived the winter – Samuel Johnson

April is the cruellest month breeding lilacs out of the dead land, mixing memory and desire, stirring dull roots with spring rain – T.S. Eliot

Why are people so tired on 1st April? Because they just finished a 31-day March!! – Unknown

On April Fool's Day, believe nothing, trust no one, just like any other day – Unknown

Here cometh April again, and as far as I can see the world hath more fools in it than ever – Charles Lamb

Quiz Answers

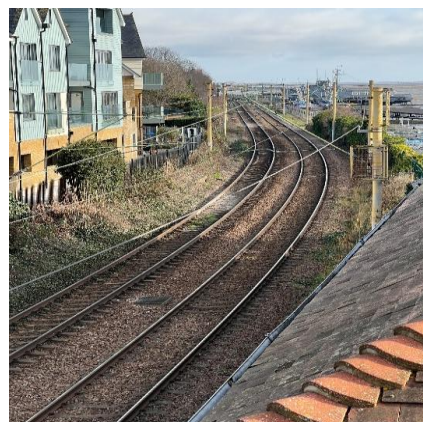
1. A pint of milk
2. Ena Sharples (Coronation Street)
3. Shetland Islands
4. Delia Smith
5. Hamnet
6. Poseidon
7. U2
8. Euston Station
9. Brighton
10. Edinburgh!!
11. Postman Pat
12. Wembley
13. Tango and Whiskey
14. Sukie
15. Grease
16. The Severn
17. George Harrison
18. A teapot
19. New Zealand
20. Line judges

You received this email because you are on our database. If you prefer not to receive our occasional emails, then please contact us.

Last month, I wrongly captioned the lovely black and white photo, which should have read Windermere Reflections by Meryl Harry so here it is again, correctly captioned. My apologies to Meryl.



Windermere Reflections by Meryl Harry



Convergence by David White

Photos courtesy of our Photography Group