

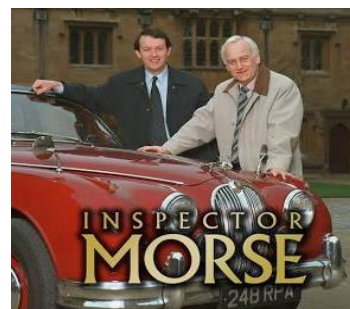
## Welcome to the March 2026 Edition of our Newsflash

### Speakers Meeting

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

**Filming Inspector Morse** – a talk by Lindsay Siviter

Lindsay will be talking to us about Filming Inspector Morse.  
It will be a unique behind the scenes look at filming the award winning television series.



### Group News

The following Groups all have vacancies:

- \* Board Games
- \* Just Sew
- \* Maths for Fun
- \* Petanque (Wednesdays)
- \* Table Tennis Monday / Wednesday / Friday
- \* Bridge (Intermediate)
- \* Local History
- \* Photography (all levels)
- \* Quiz



Photo from our Disco of  
8<sup>th</sup> January 2026

The French Conversation groups is suspended for a while due to lack of regular attendees.

Days Out Group has a few spaces on the coach for Van Hage Great Amwell on Monday 23<sup>rd</sup> March 2026. Cost for travel only £22. Great Amwell is a Flagship Garden Centre with beautifully landscaped car park, over 1000 sq.m. of shopping space, a Miniature Railway, a fully licensed free Animal Garden, Ventura Zoological Wildlife Gardens are on site for our Animal lovers. Contact Valerie Lewis on 07958 543718

**2<sup>nd</sup> Group Leaders** needed for the Philosophy Group and the Sunday Lunch Group as these groups are now full with waiting lists. Contact Groups Co-Ordinator as below.

Two new Groups are starting: Spanish Conversation 2: Contact Dennis Pennycook, Email [pennycookdennis@gmail.com](mailto:pennycookdennis@gmail.com) Mobile 07796150408

And: Improv Group 'Yes &...The Friday Improv Club'. Please contact Tony Barton if interested, Email [tb@redkiteworld.com](mailto:tb@redkiteworld.com) Mobile 07813 790186

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

### Common Recent Scams in the UK (Feb 2026):

- **"New Card" SMS Alert:** Messages claim a new card is registered on Apple Pay and demand you call a fake number, stealing account details.
- **Parking Meter Devices:** Fraudsters attach battery-operated, fake card readers to car park machines.
- **Analog to Digital Switchover Scam:** Scammers claim your phone line will be cut off unless you provide bank details.
- **Norton/Software Phishing:** Emails pretending to be cybersecurity firms (e.g., Norton) offering fake, urgent renewals for antivirus software.
- **Gold/Item Sale Scam:** Scammers target online sellers, particularly of gold, using fake courier services.
- **WhatsApp "Friend in Need" Scam:** Impersonating family members, they claim a broken phone and need urgent money.
- **Ticket and QR Code Scams:** Fake tickets are sold on social media using fraudulent QR codes.
- **Fake Remote Work Offers:** Offering jobs liking/sharing content on social media, but requiring upfront fees.

### 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.

Let's be careful out there!!

## Member's Contribution

**From Ruth Lancashire** - Ruth is the Fashion Subject Adviser for the u3a. She was asked to write something on 'Horror'

### Quelle Horreur

Oh, horror of horrors what have I just seen?  
A woman of my age in bright yellow and green  
There are frills round her neck and frills on her sleeves  
There are frills on her petticoat down to her knees  
Her shoes are silver, her bangles are gold  
Oh dear, I'm sorry not when you're old!  
Her lipstick bright pink is all round her mouth  
Her once lovely bosom has now travelled south  
As I pass her by, she looks very sad  
I wonder what's behind all those glad rags  
I say 'Good Morning', she looks quite surprised  
I add 'you look colourful today, where are you going?'  
She replied 'I've always loved fashion particularly sewing,  
my husband loved how I dressed all of my life  
he was proud of me for being his wife'  
I smiled, she continued.... 'he died last week  
and since that happened, I've been unable to speak'  
'Thank you for stopping you are very kind'  
I suddenly blurted 'Oh I don't mind,  
come for a coffee and have a chat  
there's a shop over there behind that flat'  
She related to me, the horror of watching him die  
Her face crumpled, she started to cry  
I realised that horror is not what you wear  
Horror is something that is so hard to bear  
I could tell she felt better for letting it out  
'You are a wonderful woman' I wanted to shout  
She hugged me hard when we said goodbye  
This time in guilt it was my turn to cry.

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 is the oldest underground railway line in London?
2. And what colour represents it?
3. Leigh On Sea hosted which radio programme on February 6th?
4. Which important day falls on March 15th this year?
5. Yr Wyddfa is the Welsh name for what?
6. The Fabelmans is a film loosely based on which directors' life?
7. Which clouds have no rain?
8. 'With a little bit of luck' is a song from which musical?
9. Which radio DJ presents 'Pop Master'?
10. Which is the largest bird of prey in the UK?
11. Who painted 'The Hay Wain'?
12. Who were the 2 monarchs immediately after Queen Victoria?
13. Which is the oldest pub in Leigh?
14. Who sang 'Green Door' in 1956?
15. Which bus route travels from Leigh station to Southend airport?
16. Which is the only motorway in Wales?
17. Samantha Bond, Naomie Harris and Lois Maxwell have all played which film role?
18. Which anniversary is being celebrated in USA this year?
19. Which creature represents the Chinese New Year this year?
20. Where were the Winter Olympics held this year?

## March's Pause for Thought – Britishness / Englishness

The British are a hardy and adaptable race and seem to find a way of coming together to cope with adversity that is heart-warming to experience - Winston Churchill

Modest about our national pride – and inordinately proud of our national modesty - Ian Hislop

Britain: the land of embarrassment and breakfast - Quentin Crisp

I think it has something to do with being British. We don't take ourselves as seriously as other countries do - Joan Collins

The British nation is unique in this respect: they are the only people who like to be told how bad things are, who like to be told the worst - Winston Churchill

I am proud to be British and of the British attitude that has integrated millions of immigrants and visitors for thousands of years - Winston Churchill

I fall in love with Britain every day, with bridges, buses, blue skies... - Pete Doherty

The British definitely like their tea. It's their solution to everything, all problems and concerns. If there's ever a major crisis, a cup of tea will help - C. R. Stewart

The maxim of the British people is "Business as usual" - Winston Churchill

Britishness is defined... through shared values; our history of tolerance, openness and internationalism - David Blunkett

We have really everything in common with America nowadays except, of course, language - Oscar Wilde

The English nation is never so great as in adversity - Benjamin Disraeli

There is nothing so beautiful, lovable and moving as the English countryside - Stendhal

The English are not very spiritual people, so they invented cricket to give them some idea of eternity - George Bernard Shaw

I don't desire to change anything in England except the weather - Oscar Wilde

Heaven take thy soul, and England keep my bones - William Shakespeare

England is never in a hurry because she is eternal - Henryk Sienkiewicz

The English certainly and fiercely pride themselves in never praising themselves - Wyndham Lewis

This royal throne of kings, this sceptred isle, This earth of majesty, this seat of Mars, This other Eden, demi-paradise, This fortress built by Nature for herself against infection and the hand of war. This happy breed of men, this little world. This precious stone set in the silver sea, which serves it in the office of a wall, or as a moat defensive to a house, against the envy of less happier lands This blessed plot, this earth, this realm, this England - William Shakespeare

## Quiz Answers

1. Metropolitan line, 1863.
2. Magenta
3. Any Questions, Radio 4
4. Mothering Sunday
5. Snowdon
6. Steven Spielberg
7. Cirrus
8. My Fair Lady
9. Ken Bruce
10. White-tailed eagle/sea eagle
11. John Constable
12. Edward VII and George V
13. The Crooked Billet
14. Frankie Vaughan
15. 23
16. M4
17. Miss Money Penny
18. 250 years of independence
19. Fire horse
20. Cortina & Milan, Italy

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Opposing Reflections by Annie Figg



Leigh high low birds everywhere by Alan Lyall

Photos courtesy of our Photography Group