

Welcome to the June 2026 Edition of our Newsflash

Speakers Meeting

Our Monthly Speakers Meeting is on 2nd June at the Leigh Community Centre. Doors open at 2.00pm for a 2.30pm start

The White Mouse - Nancy Wake – a talk by Paul Barwick

Paul will tell us about this remarkable true story of a highly successful secret agent of the Special Operations Executive who lived with the daily threat of death at the hands of the Gestapo during WW2. Her incredible courage and steel like resolve provide an awe-inspiring tale of one woman's fight against evil and injustice



Summer Event

Instead of a Speaker's Meeting in August, we will be holding a Barn Dance on Tuesday, 4th August at the Leigh Community Centre with the Famous Potatoes providing the music and doing the calling. Tickets are £10 each and will be available to buy after this month's Speaker's Meeting and after the 7th July's meeting. They will also be available on the door on the day. Payment can be made with cash or card. As before, free teas & coffees will be available as well as a bar with drinks at your own expense. We hope that you will be able to join us for an afternoon of fun.

Group News

At our first **New Members Coffee Group**, nine new members attended and enjoyed a warm and welcoming morning together. It provided a great opportunity for everyone to meet new people and learn more about our u3a. We offered assistance with joining different groups and activities, with plenty of advice available and guidance in finding groups that matched interests. There were also discussions about new groups being introduced. The relaxed and friendly atmosphere made the morning very enjoyable and everyone left feeling welcomed, informed, and looking forward to becoming more involved in future events and activities. If any new members are interested in joining the group please contact the group leaders via the group page on the website.



https://leigestuary.u3asite.uk/u3a_groups/new-members-coffee-group/

There will be another meeting for ***new*** members at Gemma's café, on Leigh Broadway at 10.30am on 11th June. Group Leaders are also welcome to come along

We have a **new Group: Silver Screen Cinema**. Our local cinema (Southend) offers special screenings for guests aged 60 and over, featuring popular new releases and classic films, every Tuesday at 1pm (excluding bank holidays) Gain access to special discounted tickets, (currently from £2 or £1.80 if you are an Extra Plus member), and includes complimentary tea, coffee and biscuits served before the main feature. So why not join our friendly WhatsApp group for screening information, occasional reviews or just to arrange a meet up with like-minded friends to share a movie experience, or simply go it alone, the choice is yours. For further information or enquiries, please contact: Michelle Smith, via the Groups page on our website See you at the movies!"

The following Groups all have vacancies:

- * Art for Pleasure
- * Contemporary Novels
- * Just Sew
- * Photography
- * Church Visiting
- * Days Out by Coach (on 1st paid basis)
- * Pétanque (2 spaces on 12pm session)
- * Table Tennis (Mondays & Wednesdays)

Details for the above Groups and their Leaders can be found on the Leigh Estuary u3a website under the Groups section or by contacting the Groups Co-Ordinator, Barry Freshwater at barryu3a@outlook.com.

Group Leaders 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

Essex residents face a seasonal rise in summer-specific scams, notably fraudulent holiday lettings, bogus event ticket sales, and rogue trader "pothole" gangs targeting rural farms and driveways. Additionally, scammers are actively exploiting early summer housing demands and posing as legitimate couriers or tradespeople.

1. Holiday & Ticketing Fraud - As summer approaches, fraudsters capitalize on the demand for vacations and festivals. Scammers list fake vacation rentals or holiday homes, taking deposits before disappearing.

2. Rogue Trader & Pothole Scams - Criminals operating across Greater Essex target rural communities, farms, and residential properties.

3. Online Marketplace & Delivery Scams - Fraudsters target platforms like Facebook Marketplace and Gumtree, luring buyers with heavily discounted vehicles, tech, or designer goods. They will often pressure buyers to transfer a holding deposit before an in-person viewing.

Let's be careful out there!!

Member's Contribution

John Howard aka Mr Angry

Do you know Bluey, the charming Australian animated TV dog? Probably, you may. If you have an under-fives in your family, then it's definite you do. Bluey, made in Queensland, has the world's largest television show audience. Last figures show 949 million watching, in 130 countries, with more than 50 dubbed into foreign languages. Well ahead of Peppa Pig.



Pokemon, and Teletubbies in the pre-school market. Fans can buy a vast variety of hard and soft toys, books, and games. So who owns the copyright? It's the BBC, yes, that company that drags hard-up grandmas and widows into the dock enroute to prison if they cannot afford the BBC television licence fee. At one point, a third of the female prison population in the UK were serving time for non-paying BBC licences and were prosecuted by, well, you know who.

The BBC Studios, part of Beeb, owns global rights in Bluey including distribution and merchandising, include films, theme parks, cruise ships, hotels, costumes, plays and more. The Beeb does not need to operate these themselves. They just get the cream off the top with a rights deal. Bluey was initially broadcast on the free-to-air (£174.50 a year, hah!) TV CBeebies, but is now on Disney for which viewers must pay extra thus making yet more for the BBC.

BBC Studios rakes in excess of £213 billion a year, but is demanding an increase in its mandatory licence above £174.50 a year and are negotiating the renewable of their Royal Charter. Reminds some of the Benefits Scrounger who buys two packs of cigarettes a day at £15 a packet, five pints of beer at a fiver a time each day, is holding a £600 mobile phone in his hand and complains he can't afford to feed his family or heat his home.

There's another spot to see the dodgy BBC misleading the public. In the letter demanding the licence fee, it is stated that this payment gives viewers a "must-have" pass to 400 TV channels, pay TV services like Sky, and live TV on streaming services like Amazon Prime Video. No, it doesn't. You have to pay more to get pay TV services, and if you wisely don't want to pay BBC anything, you can use those stations by paying directly to them, and ensure you boycott the BBC evil doers. And there's more. BBC own U&Dave, U&Drama, U&Eden, U&W, and U&Yesterday and others you might discover. Yes. they used to control Discovery.

The BBC Royal Charter is apparently the constitutional basis for the BBC. It sets out the BBC's Object, Mission and Public Purposes. The Charter also outlines the Corporation's governance and regulatory arrangements, including the role and composition of the BBC Board, it says here. Since so many of their celebs have proved to be bent, incompetent, dislikeable or sacked, maybe the Charter should be binned and not continue beyond 2027.

BBC is talking about cutting 10 per cent of its overheads at present, junking the useless BBC World News which repeats the same items every 20 minutes for 24 hours at a time. At present, it decided against balanced coverage of Middle East wars, instead stoking anti-Semitic in the UK by reporting Israel who have replied to attacks by Hamas and Hezbollah by bashing their bases in Lebanon and Iran with BBC hiding what the terrorists are doing in Israel.

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. In which country could you travel down the Darling and Murray rivers?
2. How many times did Andy Murray win Wimbledon?
3. Which fruit would you find in a Veronique sauce?
4. Who painted The Girl with the Pearl Earring?
5. Which team won the FA cup this year?
6. Who wrote Murder on the Orient Express?
7. Tamsin Greig and Bill Bailey starred in which BBC drama series?
8. Which monument can be seen on Mount Corcovado?
9. When is St. George's Day?
10. Which city is Iran's capital?
11. When did NME first publish the pop charts, 1952, 54 or 56?
12. Which airport has the code BHX?
13. In USA it's called a stroller, what do we call it?
14. How many teeth does an adult have?
15. Which is the smallest country in the world?
16. Who is 3rd in line to the throne?
17. In which sport did Jason and Laura Kenny compete?
18. In which county is Poole?
19. What is the USA motto?
20. Which object has a red top, green bottom but never together?

June's Pause for Thought

It's finally June - not a minute too soon – Anonymous

I wonder what it would be like to live in a world where it was always June – L.M. Montgomery

June is the pearl of summer, shining with warmth and joy – L.M. Montgomery

It was June and the world smelled of roses. The sunshine was like powdered gold over the grassy hillside – Maud Hart Lovelace

In early June, the world of leaf and blade and flowers explodes, and every sunset is different – John Steinbeck

And what is so rare as a day in June? Then, if ever, come perfect days – John Keats

June is a love song written by nature – Patience Strong

June is the time for dreams to take flight and soar into reality – Emma Racine de Fleur

June is the gateway to summer – Jean Hersey

What is one to say about June, the time of perfect young summer, the fulfilment of the promise of the earlier months, and with as yet no sign to remind one that its fresh young beauty will never fade – Gertrude Jekyll

June is the elixir of life – L.M. Montgomery

And since all this loveliness cannot be Heaven, I know in my heart it is June – Abba Woolson

Do not the bright June roses blow to meet thy kiss at morning hours? – William C. Bryant

In June, as many as a dozen species may burst their buds on a single day. No man can heed all of these anniversaries; no man can ignore all of them – Aldo Leopold

June is the time for being in the world in new ways, for throwing off the cold and dark spots of life – Joan D. Chittister

There are two seasons when the leaves are in their glory, their green and perfect youth in June and autumnal transition to their ripe old age – Henry David Thoreau

A June night would probably boast it invented romance – Bernard Williams

There are moments, above all on June evenings, when the lakes that hold our moons are sucked into the earth, and nothing is left but wine and the touch of a hand – Charles Morgan

To read a poem in January is as lovely as to go for a walk in June – Jean-Paul Sartre

Quiz Answers

1. Australia
2. Twice, 2013 and 2016
3. Grapes
4. Johannes Vermeer
5. Manchester City
6. Agatha Christie
7. Black Books
8. Christ the Redeemer in Rio de Janeiro
9. April 23rd
10. Tehran
11. 1952
12. Birmingham
13. Pushchair
14. 32
15. Vatican City
16. Princess Charlotte
17. Cycling
18. Dorset
19. Live Learn Laugh
20. Traffic lights

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Cloud Inversion over Geirangerfjord by Annie Figg



The Glass Sisters by Ruth Lancashire

Photos courtesy of our Photography Group