u3a
learn, laugh, live

Leigh Estuary

Welcome to the November 2026 Edition of our Newsflash

Speakers Meeting



Personalities Of The East End – a talk by Gary Lewis

Gary will tell us about 12 men and women from the East End of London, who made it big in Sport, Politics and Show Business. Some of the personalities include Jimmy Greaves, Honor Blackman, Barbara Windsor, Ray Winston and also Eva Heart, a survivor from the Titanic.

Message from the Membership Secretary

There have been some problems with membership registration, with new members not receiving their electronic membership cards. Hopefully, this has now been sorted. We apologise to all concerned.

Group News

The following Groups all have vacancies:

* **Just Sew** * **Photography** * **Slow Walking Group**
* **Table Tennis** (Mondays & Wednesdays)

New Group: - Spooky Group exploring UFOs & unexplained sightings; Paranormal experiences, the strange and unexplained, weird & unusual events and personal experiences and stories. You don't have to be a believer, curiosity is all that's required. The first meeting was quite interesting with most of the chat and revolved around spiritual subjects with people mentioning some strange things that have happened in their lives. We touched on dreams and how some seemed to be predictive. The afterlife and it's possibility was discussed and the question as to whether some clairvoyants are genuine or not. The next meeting will be on 26th November in Gemma's Café on Broadway West at 10.30am. If this sounds like something you would enjoy, please let Bill Forster know at: billandpat.forster@gmail.com

Potential New Group - Can't Sing Karaoke Group. Told you can't sing but want to? We all know singing is good for us but do we remember the words or even the tune? If you enjoy singing out loud to your favourite songs, making new friends, laughing and just having a thoroughly good time. Valerie Lewis will host a weekly get together at my home for 6 to 12 members. We will ALL sing a song of your choice with words on a screen from Amazon karaoke. This will be for 2 hours on a Wednesday or Thursday morning or

Friday afternoon. There will be no charge but you will be required to bring your own refreshments and snacks. To join, contact Valerie on 07958 543718.

New Members Coffee Group's next meeting will be on 12th November @ 10.30 am at Gemma's Café on Broadway West in Leigh. All future meetings will be on the second Thursday of the month, same time, same place.

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

Parcel Delivery Phishing: Phishing texts and emails (posing as Royal Mail, Evri, or DPD) demand small customs fees or redelivery charges.
The "I Paid Twice" Hotel Scam: Hackers compromise hotel management systems via malware, then email real guests with authentic reservation details asking them to re-verify or re-pay for a stay.
Cloned Voice & Video Calls: Fraudsters use artificial intelligence to clone the voices of family members or authority figures (such as banks or police) to manufacture false emergencies or bank transfer demands.
Safe-Account & Bank Fraud: Criminals pretend to be from your bank's fraud team or the police, claiming your account is compromised and instructing you to move money to a "safe account". *Banks and police will never ask you to do this.*
Call-Forwarding Traps: Scammers trick users into entering *21* codes on their phones to intercept bank verification and two-factor authentication calls.
Recovery Scams: Fraudsters contact previous scam victims, posing as agencies or law enforcement that can recover lost funds for an upfront fee.
Parking Fine Texts: Fake SMS messages claim you have an unpaid parking ticket, directing you to copycat government websites that steal your details.
Email Bombardment: Criminals flood your inbox with hundreds of automated subscriptions to hide real bank fraud alerts while stealing your money.

Let's be careful out there!!

Member's Contribution

GARONS IMPERIAL BISCOPE – by Carol Edwards

The Garon's family who owned 37 shops around the town mainly on our High Street, opened a cinema in 1911 at the top of the street, known in those days as Broadway, at a cost of £5000. The grand opening was performed by the local Mayor and local dignities attended the evening event. They used a local builder, James Flaxman and the interior was designed by William Robert Crewe, a leading theatre architect of the time, born in Essex in the 1860s. His design included panelled walls and the ceiling was painted Wedgwood blue and Rose du Barri (an opaque pink ceramic over glaze developed in France in the 18th century). The seats were the cheapest in town

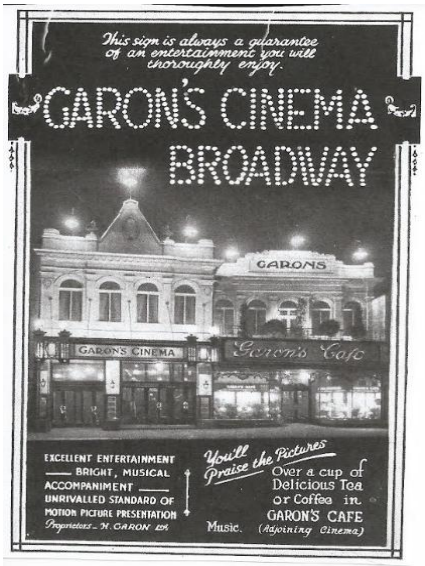
Unusual for the time, there were heavy curtains hung in front of the screen (the brainchild of Harry Frank Garon) that were swept back at the start and close of every performance. During intermission, at each side of this screen, jets of water were shot 3 feet high, illuminated by coloured lights.

A beautiful Estey organ was installed with drum rhythm, cuckoo calls and many other sound effects. Not quite what we would expect today. The first organists were sisters, Edna and Florence Baga. Later, a man called Edward Young took their place and when the cinema was closed some years later the organ was donated to his church. When dismantled the organ was found to have 800 pipes with a blower weighing half a ton. It continued serving the church for a further 24 years. But the organs life was far from over being sold for £1,500 to an enthusiast who restored it and continued playing cinema music.

In 1912 the family brought the rights to show Kinemacolour and in 1929, the auditorium was extended and sound equipment installed. Their first talkie was "The Wolf of Wall Street" starring George Bancroft. Their final film came in 1963 starring Clark Gable and Sophia Loren.

During the 1920's, a ballroom was added above Imperial Bioscope and the name was changed to Garon's Cinema.

The building was demolished that year and shops were built, still there today.





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 are the 2 national parks in Devon?
2. Esther Rantzen created which 2 charities?
3. Which English football club has plastic bananas as mascots?
4. What nickname is given to standing patrons at the Globe theatre in London?
5. Which recent film features the story of meteorologist James Stagg during WW2?
6. Who wrote The Gruffalo?
7. Who killed Cock Robin?
8. Which fish should be in a Caesar salad?
9. In which country would you see the mountain range The Remarkables?
10. What does ASDA stand for?
11. What was Zambia called between 1911-1964?
12. Which bus takes you from Leigh station to Southend airport?
13. What is a zedonk ?
14. Who holds the record for most Olympic gold medals for rowing?
15. Who sang about "4 seasons in one day" in 1991?
16. On the perimeter of which London Park would you see Marble Arch?
17. Who presents Pop Master on Greatest Hits radio?
18. Which product was advertised on British TV with the phrase "I told 'em Oldham"?
19. Which film had the creepy line "They're here!"?
20. Who sculpted the statue The Thinker?

November's Pause for Thought

- The thinnest yellow light of November is more warming and exhilarating than any wine they tell of – Henry David Thoreau
- Welcome sweet November, the season of senses and my favourite month of all – Gregory F. Lenz
- So dull and dark are the November days. The lazy mist high up the evening curled, and now the morn quite hides in the smoke and haze; the place we occupy seems all the world – John Clare
- November always seems to me the Norway of the year – Emily Dickinson
- November's sky is chill and drear, November's life is red and sear – Sir Walter Scott
- November at its best—with a sort of delightful menace in the air – Anne Bosworth Greene
- Fallen leaves lying on the grass in the November sun bring more happiness than the daffodils – Cyril Connolly
- Some of the days in November carry the whole memory of summer as a fire opal carries the colour of moon rise – Gladys Taber
- But there is always a November space after the leaves have fallen when she felt it was almost indecent to intrude on the woods…for their glory terrestrial had departed and their glory celestial of spirit and purity and whiteness had not yet come upon them – L.M. Montgomery
- In November, the smell of food is different. It tastes like cinnamon and can fill up a house in the morning, can pull everyone from bed in a fog. Food is better in November than any other time of the year – Cynthia Rylant
- The house was very quiet, and the fog we are in November now pressed against the windows like an excluded ghost – E.M. Forster
- Fear not November's challenge bold. We've books and friends, and hearths that never can grow cold. These make amends – Alexander L. Fraser
- The month of November makes me feel that life is passing more quickly. In an effort to slow it down, I try to fill the hours more meaningfully – Henry Rollins
- November comes and November goes, with the last red berries and the first white snows – Clyde Watson
- The wind that makes music in November corn is in a hurry – Aldo Leopold
- The August noon in us works to stave off the November chills – Ray Bradbury
- November - crows are approaching, wounded leaves fall to the ground – Sir Kristian Goldmund Aumann
- Autumn carries more gold in its pocket than all other seasons – Jim Bishop
- It looked like the world was covered in a cobbler crust of brown sugar and cinnamon – Sarah Addison Allen

Quiz Answers

1. Dartmoor and Exmoor
2. Childline and Silverline
3. Manchester City
4. Groundlings
5. Pressure
6. Julia Donaldson
7. "I, said the sparrow"
8. Anchovy
9. New Zealand
10. Associated Dairies
11. Northern Rhodesia
12. 23
13. A cross breed of a zebra & donkey
14. Steve Redgrave
15. Crowded House
16. Hyde Park
17. Ken Bruce
18. Batteries
19. Poltergeist
20. Auguste Rodin



Drought by Ruth Lancashire



'S' is for Sign by Richard Lytheer



Rain Patterns by Linda Leadeham

Photos courtesy of our Photography Group

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