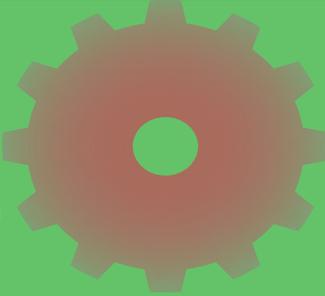


Appliances For Men!



Okay, stop that, this is a family newsletter.

Click [HERE](#) for a short promotional video of household appliances designed for men.

(Please note we are not connected in any way with the manufacturer and are not receiving any commission for linking to this video.)



Eighty years ago, a small single-seat fighter was largely responsible for defeating Germany's attempts to invade Britain. But it wasn't the Spitfire.

Click [HERE](#) to read about it.



Enjoy an hour with nature and discover the wildlife on your doorstep and help with the RSPB 'Big Garden Birdwatch'.

The watch happens between 29th and 31st January and all you have to do is watch your garden for an hour, recording the birds you see. We intend to grab a coffee and our binoculars.

Click [HERE](#) for more details and to sign up.

Do you have a problem with doorstep cold callers? Bill Bailey has an idea for a doorbell chime which may help to keep them away.



Click [HERE](#) to watch the short video.

Do you consider yourself to be a pretty good cyclist? Since coming to live in Southport I have totally lost my ability to cycle up hills. I used to be up and down them all day, but now that I have to ride 15 miles to even find one my body goes into a state of shock at the mere thought.

Click [HERE](#) to watch a video about people who would consider Parbold Hill nothing more than a bump in the road.



The purpose of Lockdown Ramblings is to provide a place for U3A members to recall walking, rambling and hiking events and share memories.

This effort is to provide a service to all the members of the Southport U3A a space where the friends can write about their walking stories via an on-line supplementary page in their Magazine.

The idea is to gather photographs and stories of walks from the past as members recall what they have seen and also use their imagination to finish those stories and conversations that naturally arose. In a fun and informative way.

Our four walking groups will no doubt be able to provide a platform for these stories that continue to bring joy and reflective moments - ones to share now, as we continue to deal with these strange times.

So here goes for the first ramble.



She caught up with me and opened the conversation with a very cheerful "And how are the bees affected by Covid-19?"

Somewhat puzzled, I did a little quick-thinking and replied that they had, in fact, benefitted from the reduced pollution during the first lockdown, and also from the increased gardening carried out by people in furlough.

Other than that, I had no idea whether the bees had even heard about Covid, or whether they would be interested. I thought this last, simplistic, anthropomorphic, tongue-in-cheek statement would enable us to talk about something else; like what was on telly last night.

Since we were climbing a bit of a hill, she took a little time to respond. I suspect she was only pretending to be concentrating on her breathing; I could almost hear the cogs turning. Then it all came tumbling out:

"But if bees suffer a setback in their hive, do they pick themselves up and start again? In fact, how does our life cycle differ from that of the bees?"

Blimey, I thought, where do I start?

That's when we arrived at a line of picnic tables and everyone sat down for a coffee break and a bit of banter about the mud we had just waded through.

The next person I walked along told me about a really interesting programme she had seen on Channel 4 the night before.

How does our life cycle differ from that of the bees, though????

Francine Sagar

(Note from Editor. If Francine's ramble has made you think of an unfinished conversation you want to finish, or you want to respond to this one, simply email your contribution to the normal address).



AUSTRALIA

HOME TO BRILLIANT BEACHES AND FANTASTIC SUNSETS

Even after three long holidays there, we are still only scratching the surface of this incredibly diverse country

