

Remember that Icelandic volcano? It seems that one brave drone owner decided to risk his expensive equipment to take a closer look.



Click [HERE](#) to view the footage.



Some of you may recognise the location in the above photo, I've certainly been there a few times. It is the 'Strid', which runs near to Bolton Abbey in Wharfedale. Did you know though, that it is counted as one of the most dangerous streams in the world?

Click [HERE](#) to find out why.

Pee on the electric fence  
they said...  
It will be fun they said...



u3a  
learn, laugh, live

If you haven't taken a look at the National U3A website (or at least not recently), you should go and have a look. There is a lot of information on there, plus items of interest, activity groups and podcasts.

Click [HERE](#) to visit the site, you may find something you didn't know that you didn't know. Or click [HERE](#) to take a look at 'Trust U3A', the online U3A.

This newsletter is no mirage, but lots of people have experienced them. It may have been at the beach or driving along a road, but wherever you were I'm sure you will agree it is a weird experience.

Click [HERE](#) to read an article about this phenomenon.



A reminder, in case you need one, that the F1 season starts this weekend with the Bahrain GP.

You can watch it live on Sky or catch the highlights on C4, at 8:30pm on Sunday. If you have access to Now TV they are doing a special offer, £25 per month gets you all 11 Sky Sports channels!

Black and White is monochrome, but monochrome is not black and white. Want some proof of that? Click [HERE](#) to read an article about some amazing monochrome locations.

I'm not sure if any of the hands in this video belong to Francine, or whether she just thinks it is very clever. Either way, it is definitely worth a watch.



Click [HERE](#) to see the video (I hope they washed them first!).



# Website Developer Needed!

Membership Beacon Documents Contact Resources FAQs



## Welcome

Southport U3A - What is it? What does it do? Can I join?

We are part of a national organisation dedicated to the promotion of education, leisure and knowledge among people who have entered the "Third Age" of their life. Men and women with a lifetime of experience share their knowledge and passion for a whole range of activities and hobbies. It is open to anyone who is no longer in full time employment.

Currently, we have over 80 Activity, Leisure and Learning Groups covering a vast array of subjects - all run by members themselves using their own knowledge or expertise.

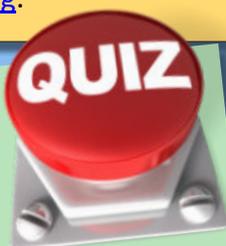
For more details of the activities available and a detailed schedule click the link to the Information Booklet. The contents of this document are updated regularly to reflect changes in group activities.

To find out how to become a member, the benefits of becoming a member and how to get the best out of your membership click the link to our [MEMBERSHIP](#) page.

Our Southport U3A website has served us well for years, but it is now time to give it a new look. Over the coming months we intend to redevelop the site and are looking for an experienced web developer to take a lead in this endeavour.

If you have experience developing websites, preferably in Wordpress and are interested in being part of this exciting project please email [Phil Watling](mailto:Phil.Watling).

## FAMOUS IRISHMEN



1. Actor who played James Bond in four films (b 1953)
2. Polar explorer, buried in South Georgia (1874-1922)
3. Author of "Ulysses" (1882-1941)
4. Actor who sang "MacArthur Park" (1930-2002)
5. Architect/designer of "The White House" (1758-1831)
6. Author/creator of Narnia (1898-1989)
7. Actor/star of the "Taken" series of films (b1952)
8. Actor, director, screenwriter starred as Wallander (b1960)



"You'll be in charge of the music down here."



learn, laugh, live

### Saturday 3rd April 2021

Chelsea v West Brom  
12:30 BT Sport

Leeds United v Sheffield United  
15:00 Amazon Prime Video

Leicester City v Man City  
17:30 Sky Sports

Arsenal v Liverpool  
20:00 Sky Sports

### Sunday 4th April 2021

Southampton v Burnley  
12:00 Sky Sports

Newcastle United v Tottenham Hotspur  
14:05 Sky Sports

Aston Villa v Fulham  
16:30 Sky Sports

Man Utd v Brighton & Hove Albion  
19:30 BT Sport

### Monday 5th April 2021

Everton v Crystal Palace  
18:00 Sky Sports

Wolves v West Ham United  
20:15 Sky Sports



zoom

If you missed the Fool's Gold Zoom talk on Tuesday morning, now is your chance to see it. Unfortunately the first few minutes are missing, but that is only a couple of minutes into the actual talk.

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

## Eyes down!

No eyes up actually!

Do you recognise the building in the photo?



The frontages to Lord Street and Kingsway were linked by a curved corner with the name GARRICK at attic level

Now a bingo Hall, you are looking at The Garrick Theatre.

This was built in 1932, at the cost of around £120,000, on the site of Frank Matchams Opera House which was destroyed by fire in 1929.

It was commissioned by businessman Mr George Rose and his partners, who had formed the Southport Theatre Company. The architect was George Edward Tonge who designed the Town's largest and finest Cinemas and Theatres from 1911 to 1938. Originally he favoured the classical style but later became interested in the Art Deco movement. It was named after a famous 18th Century actor, dramatist and poet David Garrick.

The clients' brief to Mr Tonge was to create a building of exceptional beauty and quality to provide a home for live entertainment.

The Theatre was situated on the corner of Lord Street and Kingsway, the Lord Street front being the principal façade. The facades were executed in rustic Brick with stone dressings.

The two main fronts are connected by an elegant curve and the long windows on this curve are separated by art deco pilasters resembling in shape New York's Empire State Building.

The Lord Street entrance is divided by columns and was surmounted by a high canopy. A canopy at a lower level surrounded the remaining ground floor, below which there were shops as well as exits.

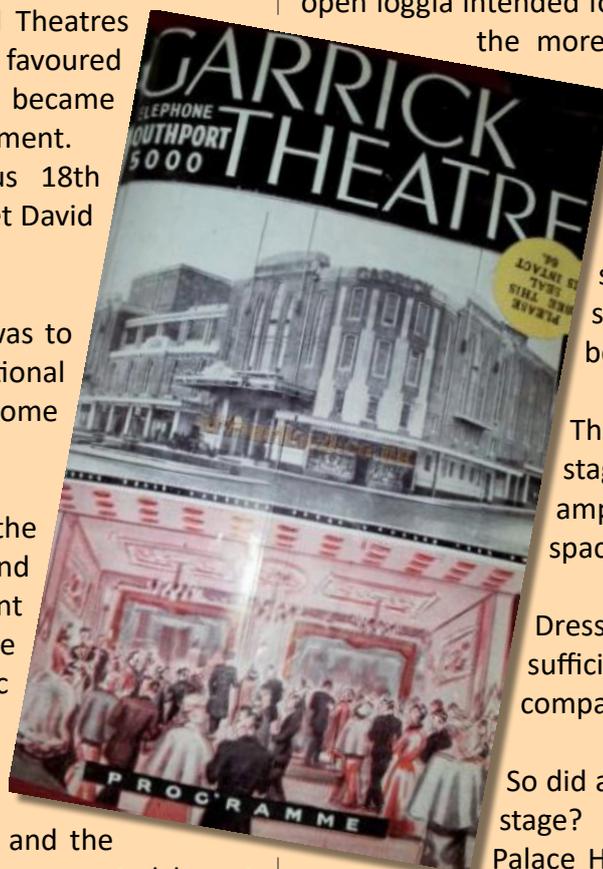
Contained behind this feature is a winding staircase giving access to some parts of the house, principally the back crush hall of the rear circle. Between the two three story elevations situated at each end of the Lord Street Façade, at second floor level, is an open loggia intended for the use of patrons, during the more clement months, to stroll and take their drinks before the performance and during the interval.

The auditorium originally seating 1,600, consists of stalls, circle and eight stage boxes.

The 50ft. wide proscenium stage is over 40ft deep with ample flying capability and wing space.

Dressing room accommodation is sufficient to provide for the largest company.

So did anyone famous appear on its stage? Staff who worked at the Palace Hotel Birkdale recall meeting stars such as Anne Shelton, and Ted Ray who were staying there whilst appearing at the theatre.



The film star, Robert Donat was actor manager at The Garrick in January 1936 when he premiered a highly successful War Play "Red Night".

the original design. The auditorium was re seated to provide a standardised seat in all parts of the house with a reduction in capacity to 1,500. All the stage facilities were however retained as was the Garrick name. At the end of the decade the building was given the company circuit name of Essoldo.

Laurel and Hardy appeared in August 1952. The Southport Guardian 20th August 1952 says in an article that they asked for a police escort as they



were scared of being mobbed! This was surprising given that by this time their successful film careers were over. They were even picked up at the theatre door by a 25horse power special limousine who took them on a 200 yard ride to the Prince of Wales Hotel.

Peter Sellers appeared in his one man show in 1955. A review in the Southport Guardian on 14th September 1955 described his act as "bright and breezy".

The original colour scheme was crème, greens, gold and black with green upholstery and green front of house tabs but the whole décor was looking very tired by 1962 as noted on attending a production of "Billy Liar," by Keith Waterhouse & Willis Hall. This was one of the last live shows to be seen in the Theatre.

The theatre was sold by the then owner Mr V. Sheridan to the Essoldo cinema circuit. It was hoped at the time that the new owners would continue to book live shows into the Theatre. However the Theatre was closed for conversion to full time use as a Cinema. This was done with no visible damage to

The Cinema was not a great success. As several large super cinemas were already well established along Lord Street. Live shows were again booked to counter the lack of first run films, but by the early 60's regional theatre was in serious decline.

Bingo would move into the building from 1963 first using the Essoldo name, later to become Lucky 7, then Ladbrokes, Top Rank, and now Mecca.

Under the present owners, the building, especially the public areas have been kept in excellent condition. The backstage areas, whilst unused for over 50 years, are carefully sealed and should the opportunity present itself the Garrick Theatre could become a wonderful theatrical asset to the town once again.

The Garrick Theatre was Grade II Listed in 1999.

Nb Material in this article is taken from "Hollywood Celebrities in Southport" by James Ford and an article by George Richmond written in 2013.

***Helen Jean and Myra.***

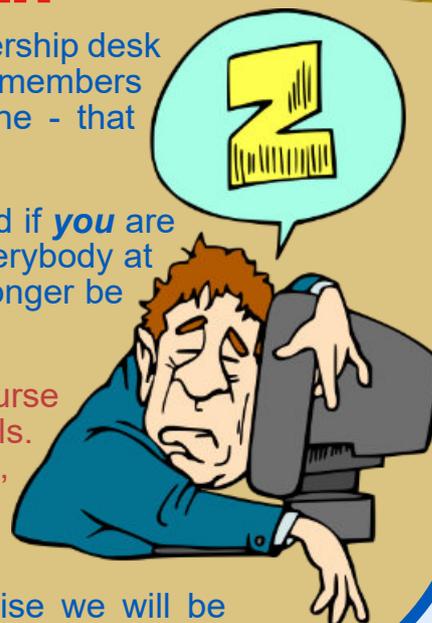
# A MESSAGE FROM THE MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY

Well, as you can see, life has been tough at the membership desk since the start of the year. We have renewed 1216 members since then. Thanks to everybody who renewed online - that certainly takes some of the load off!!

However 285 of our members have still to renew - and if **you** are one of these you should know that I will be mailing everybody at the end of this week to let you know that you will no longer be a member of our great organisation.

From next week you will be a "Lapsed" member. Of course you can still renew, as I will have all your details. However, you will **not** have access to any of the groups, any of the Zoom meetings or to this excellent twice weekly newsletter.

So, you still have a small window to renew, otherwise we will be saying, Farewell, Au Revoir, Auf Weidersehen, Arrivederci!!!



## ZOOM TALKS AT HOME

### DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

<p><b>Wed 7th April</b> at 2pm <i>Ladies of the Air, 'Grandma Flew Spitfires'</i></p>	<p><b>Thur 22nd April</b> at 2pm <i>Wrecks of the Coast Southport</i></p>	<p><b>Thur 6th May</b> at 2pm <i>Rivington Terraced Gardens</i></p>	<p><b>Thur 20th May</b> at 2pm <i>Apitourism - travelling for bees</i></p>
<p><b>Thur 3 June</b> at 2pm <i>John Dempsey, on the Sefton Coast</i></p>	<p><b>Thur 17th June</b> at 10.30 <i>Telling time over the Centuries</i></p>	<p><b>Thur 1st July</b> at 10.30 <i>The Seven Ancient &amp; Modern Wonders of the World</i></p>	<p><b>Thur 15th July</b> at 10.30 <i>Life of Sir Henry Segrave &amp; the Land Speed Record attempt on Ainsdale Beach</i></p>

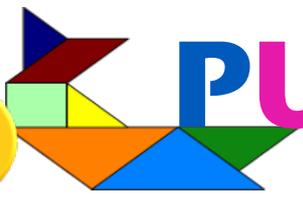


With the publication of a road map out of lockdown for England I know many of you have been wondering about the future of the newsletter. I have good news (or it may be bad dependent upon your viewpoint..

Subject to restrictions being eased as planned, the final Tuesday newsletter will be published on May 11<sup>th</sup>. At the same time, the weekly newsletter will move from Friday to Saturday. From June 21<sup>st</sup>, the

newsletter will move to a fortnightly schedule and will continue at that frequency until we are able to resume our monthly meetings. At that time it will move to a monthly schedule and be supplemented by the return of the quarterly, printed, newsletter.

Throughout these changes, the electronic newsletter will retain its current format and, as always, contributions from members are welcomed.



## 1 - HIDDEN PRODUCE

The names of **five** different fruits are hidden between consecutive words in the silly story below. Can you find them all?

A man goes to a lumberyard. He has little money, so he's looking for cheap lumber. But the prices are too high. Suddenly feeling really cheeky, the man decides to steal the wood he needs and, like a skilled escape artist, manages to slip away without arousing suspicion.

## 2 - HIDDEN HUES

The names of **six** different colours are hidden between consecutive words in the silly story below. Can you find them all?

Sure, it's fancy and all, but my brother's car lets out a strange noise when you start it. I find I go too hard on him sometimes, but he did waste a lot of money customizing the exterior, only to leave the generic rims on it and forgo all routine maintenance.

## 3 - FILL IN THE BLANKS

How many common English words can you make by adding a letter to each of the blanks below? We found seven. Proper nouns don't count.

<b>D</b> <u>   </u> <b>I</b> <u>   </u> <b>Y</b>	<u>   </u> <u>   </u> <b>I</b> <u>   </u> <b>Z</b>
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## 4 - FILL IN THE BLANKS

How many common English words (no proper nouns, please) can you make by adding a letter to each of the blanks below? We found five.

## 5 - LETTER SWITCH

In each of the following pairs of words, switch one letter from the first word with one letter from the second word to form pairs of opposites. The switched letters can come from anywhere in either word.

LOFT / SOUND  
COAL / WORM  
FAN / REAR  
HEAT / FEED  
FLESH / STARE



Zoom Talks at Home  
**NEXT MEETING**



# LADIES OF THE AIR

**Grandma Flew Spitfires!!**

**Wed 7th April at 2pm**

Tim Young a U3A member from Eastern England will tell the story of women in the history of flight and the part they played in the development of flight and flying.

During WW2 they supported the RAF and Fleet Air Arm by ferrying aircraft between maintenance units and operational bases. flying everything from Tiger Moths for training to heavy bombers.

But Women were far more pivotal than often thought starting from the earliest days of flight right up to modern days.



**If you have already registered for this talk, links will be sent out in due course**