



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## LEIGH BELFAIRS

## NEWSLETTER

October 5<sup>th</sup> 2020

Dear Members

Welcome to our periodical **Newsletter**. We hope you are keeping well and are in good spirits.

We are pleased to be able to let you know the results of the small survey we recently did. We had 30 members respond and the results are as follows:

Question	% Yes	% No	% Undecided
During the present situation concerning Covid-19, would you be prepared to attend monthly meeting at St Aidan's hall?	57	40	3
During the present situation concerning Covid-19, would you be prepared to attend a group/group meeting at St Aidan's hall?	60	33	7
Are you waiting for a vaccine to become available before you attend any meetings or group meetings	17	57	27
During the present situation do you find the Newsletter adequate?	95% said yes		

Unfortunately, since sending the survey, further changes have been announced by the Government. As a consequence of this, and a subsequent conversation with Keith Bevell, the church caretaker, who has advised that no more than 6 adults are allowed in the church hall; any further meetings are on hold until 2021.

The results from the survey indicate that you are in favour of meeting up, but we must of course abide by current Covid-19 rules.

The U3A ethos is about learning new skills, as well as enjoying those things that are second nature to us. So, there is no better time for those familiar with technology to enter the big arena and come on an adventure using ZOOM. If you have any family members that can give you some guidance it's well worth pursuing. The U3A are giving Zoom lessons for free and if you sign on to [www.U3A.org.uk](http://www.U3A.org.uk) you can book your lesson. It's good fun and you get to meet other U3A members.

A virtual walk about Hornchurch via Zoom is now available to us. Our London guide, Elaine, will be speaking to us in real time. Before we book a date and time, we will need to know who would like to join us. We are hoping it will take place on a Wednesday afternoon, as if we were all experiencing someone entertaining us as St Aidan's. The cost, as with all speakers, will be taken from our U3A funds. As we now have a list of speakers who work via Zoom, it may be possible to continue with a monthly speaker, until we can return to some sort of normality.

Please email Gill at [gillyfranmoore@hotmail.com](mailto:gillyfranmoore@hotmail.com) with your interest for 'The Virtual Walk Hornchurch' before 15<sup>th</sup> October 2020. This is, of course, only available to those members who have renewed their 2020/2021 subscription.

For those who have Facebook there is a U3A group which connects people from around the world who belong to the U3A. Again, this is worth joining.

If any members would like to contribute to the content of our Newsletter, please email us at [gillyfranmoore@hotmail.com](mailto:gillyfranmoore@hotmail.com) - it would be very much appreciated. Perhaps you can tell us about memorable holidays you have had; how you have been coping during this Pandemic; amusing things that may have happened etc. etc. You will see that we have a School nostalgia write up in this Newsletter...do let us have your comments on your school days for adding to this. Other members would love to hear your stories.

Of course, we appreciate that not everybody is familiar with technology, so we will continue to post the Newsletter where needed. On this note, the deadline for paying your membership fees has now lapsed, so if this is something you may have overlooked, please do post off your subscription. Of course, only members will be able to receive the Newsletters.

We are looking for new members to join the committee. After the A.G.M. we will be down to 7, which will make it very hard going for those 7...they will indeed be 'The Magnificent Seven'! It doesn't take up too much of your time, is very rewarding and you can have a say in how the club runs. We are still holding committee meetings by way of Zoom. If you think this is something you would be interested in please contact me and I will be more than happy to explain how it all works. [gillyfranmoore@hotmail.com](mailto:gillyfranmoore@hotmail.com)

From Gill Knight, Co-opted Chair and the Committee

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### Some News from the Group Leaders



**Book Club** – we cannot now hold our 'al fresco' events, so I have suggested a few good reads below. I certainly enjoyed reading them and I hope you will feel the same. **Sharon**

**The Silent Daughter** by **Claire Amarti** – This is a well written, skilfully plotted, suspense story, about a woman trying to overcome her past. She left her hometown literally the day she graduated and tried to never look back. The suspense starts early and maintains a steady pace until the unexpected ending.

**Snipers Nest** by **C M Sutter** – The ambush is in place, he takes aim, and shots ring out. Chicago is officially on notice, and a siege is underway on the city's men and women in blue. Assigned to the task force investigating the shootings, Jesse McCord and twenty of Chicago's top-notch detectives work day and night to track down the sniper whose agenda is apparent—to kill as many police officers as possible.

**Life of Crime** by **Kimberley Chambers** - Jason Rampling is determined to have a better life than the one

he had as a child and change his lot. His mother was completely lacking in maternal instincts - and hit the bottle at every opportunity, leaving her kids to drag themselves up in whichever way they could manage. Jason is a ducker and a diver (think Del Boy in 'Only Fools and Horses'). When he meets single mum Melissa, he thinks he's found the perfect person. There's an added bonus too - her father owns a very successful construction firm, and appears to be extremely wealthy. At the core of this novel is the relationship between Jason and Melissa. The narrative is raw and gritty, there is some clever plotting, meticulous detail, and an all too credible cast of characters, many with a wry sense of humour, and let's not forget some neat little twists along the way.

**The Silent Woman** by **Terry Lynn Thomas** - Catherine Carlisle is trapped in a loveless marriage and the threat of World War Two is looming. She sees no way out... that is until a trusted friend asks her to switch her husband's papers in a desperate bid to confuse the Germans. Soon Catherine finds herself caught up in a deadly mixture of espionage and murder. Someone is selling secrets to the other side, and the evidence seems to point right at her. Can she clear her name before it's too late?

**Don't Lie to Me** by **Willow Rose** - When twelve-year-old Sophie Williams went on a Girl Scout summer camp, she never returned home. Three months later, her body is found inside her sleeping bag in the most frequented area of Cocoa Beach, and the town is outraged. Soon another child, the son of a well-known senator, is kidnapped, and the parents receive a disturbing video. But the deeper the investigation goes, the deadlier it becomes and all involved become very unsettled.

**The Body** by **Bill Bryson** – This is a fascinating insight into how the body works, it's wonders and pitfalls. You will be amazed by some of the facts in this book and it's filled with interesting facts and figures, most of which will surprise you. This is a must for the non-fiction fan.

Don't forget the libraries are now open Mon – Fri from 10am – 4pm. You can order books from the library by logging on to their web page, telephoning or visiting in person. They also have a 'Click and Collect' service where they will select up to 7 items from your specifications and then arrange a convenient time for you to collect them. Just call 01702 215011 to find out more. And to warn you they are bringing back fines w.e.f. 1<sup>st</sup> October. You can use the same telephone number as above to renew items.

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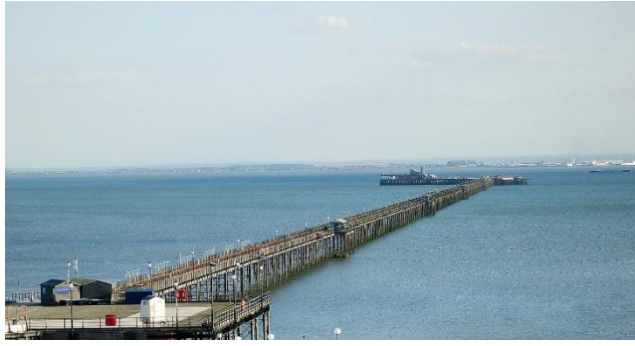
## School nostalgia

In 1950 I started at Love Lane Junior School in Rayleigh. I don't remember too much about these schooldays but I can remember having our photo taken when we all went on school trips. I used to play marbles on the drain covers in the playground and also played with cigarette cards. I recollect the dinners were very nice. My mum used to go to work so I had to get myself to and from school, which wasn't too strange in those times. It meant walking home, a distance of about a mile and a half, but again, nothing odd about this in the 1950's. I can remember walking home one day and I felt very poorly. Turns out I had polio and had it not been for a new drug, which the police drove to London to get, I would probably have ended up in the infamous iron lung, so I count myself as being very lucky. I attended an open day there about 3-4 years ago, and it felt odd to be walking around the classrooms. My High School days are a different story!

**Janet**

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## Some Interesting Facts about Southend



1. Southend Pier is the world's longest Iron Pleasure Pier, and was taken over by the Navy during the Second World War as a departure point for convoys.
2. The Pier was originally a wooden structure built in 1830. In 1851 a narrow-gauge horse tramway was introduced to take people to the pier head. By 1890 horsepower was out of fashion, and an electrically powered narrow-gauge line had been laid which ran for  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. The following year, 1891, this was extended to  $1\frac{1}{4}$  miles and still remains that length.
3. In May 1915 Southend was one of the first air raid victims of the First World War. Bombs were dropped by hand from giant Zeppelins LZ38 airships.
4. Southend-on-Sea covers an area of 41.76 square kilometres and is the largest town in Essex, featuring its' very own airport. It is officially the warmest and driest place in the U.K.



5. In the 1860's Steamers used to cross the Estuary from Southend to Rochester, Sheerness and Gravesend in Kent.



6. In the Domesday book, Southend was referred to as the "south end of Prittlewell".
7. Parts of the Town were featured in the 1964 James Bond film 'Goldfinger', in the scene when James Bond followed Goldfinger to Southend Airport for a flight out to Zurich.
8. The Town was sealed off during the Second World War and was renamed HMS Westcliff. It was out of bounds to all except the military and those residents who had not been compulsorily relocated for the duration of the conflict.
9. In October 1972, Southend's claim to fame was as the home of the Access credit card. A joint venture with four of the major banks and a rival to Barclaycard. Southend was chosen as it had one of the UK's first electronic telephone exchanges.



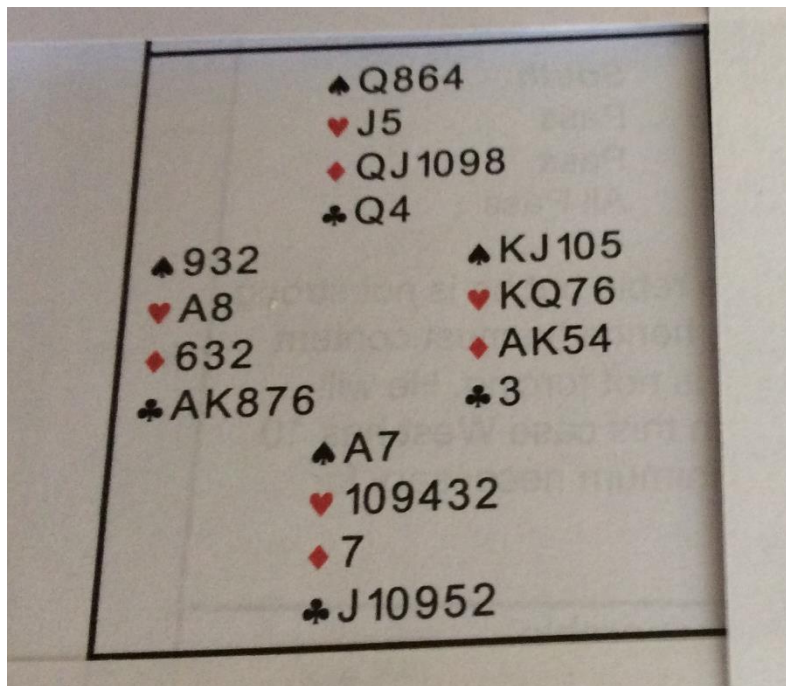
## Bridge



The bridge on line classes are going very well with 4/5 sessions a week. I have about 16 members playing and there is a lot of banter going on, usually all in fun. Even the beginners who started last year have all kept going and made enormous progress.

Re the below poser, dealer is East and all vulnerable, how would you bid? Answer at the end....*Maryann*

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## POETRY

Poem, author unknown, with a take on the shipping forecasts:

Tesco good, occasionally busy later  
Sainsbury's, moderate to good, rough in the toilet roll aisle  
Asda, light to moderate, heavy crowds by the evening  
Marks and Spencer and Co-Op, fair  
Waitrose, fair to moderate, spillage in aisle 7  
Lidl rough at first, easing later  
And that's the end of the shopping forecast!

On the river bank I lay  
lots of things I was that day  
A dragon fly with emerald wing, a swallow gliding on his way  
looking for food that summers' day

I lay with my story book  
I read awhile and then I looked  
at all the lovely world around  
The grasses of the meadow shook  
around me in my grassy nook

Incredibly this last poem was written in the late 1960's by a little boy aged 8 years old!  
It was one of a number of poems that were written by children who attended The  
Basildon Arts Centre, a new purpose-built arts venue, completed in 1968. It stood on  
the site of today's Towngate Theatre



And now a **Geography quiz** to test you...the answers are at the end of the Newsletter...no cheating!

1. Which is the longest river in Europe?
2. The Aleutian Islands are part of which American state?
3. Where is Cape Wrath?
4. What is British Honduras now called?
5. Which river flows into the sea at Whitby?
6. Greenland is ruled by which country?
7. The Quetzal is the currency of which country?
8. Which German city is famous for its Oktoberfest?
9. In which sea is the island of Corfu?
10. In which English county is the town of Ludlow?

## Recipe Corner

### Meat Loaf



This has been submitted by one of the committee members and the offering this time is a savoury option. It is very good and so simple to do!

### Meat Loaf

#### Ingredients

8 oz lean minced beef  
8 oz sausage meat  
1 onion – diced  
Packet of stuffing mix  
1 egg  
2 rashers of bacon

#### Method

Mix all the ingredients together, except for the bacon and season with salt and pepper. Place in a greased 2lb loaf tin. Even out in the tin and arrange the bacon on top.  
Bake in the oven at Gas mark 4 / 175C for approx. 1½ hours

## Bridge answer –

		Board 10 : Dealer East : All vulnerable			
		West	North	East	South
<p>▲ Q864</p> <p>♥ J5</p> <p>♦ QJ1098</p> <p>▲ Q4</p> <p>▲ 932</p> <p>♥ A8</p> <p>♦ 632</p> <p>♠ AK876</p> <p>▲ A7</p> <p>♥ 109432</p> <p>♦ 7</p> <p>♠ J10952</p>					
<p>▲ KJ105</p> <p>♥ KQ76</p> <p>♦ AK54</p> <p>♠ 3</p>					
		2♠	Pass	2NT	Pass
		3NT	All Pass		

With 4-4-4-1 and a black suit singleton East opens the middle of the 3 touching suits. East could rebid 2♦ (a new suit by opener after a 2-level response is forcing for one round even though 2♦ is below the 2♥ barrier and not a reverse) but that suggests he has 5 hearts. Because he is within the range of a 2NT rebid that is the better choice, despite the singleton club.

## Geography quiz answers...

1. The Volga
2. Alaska
3. Scotland
4. Belize
5. River Esk
6. Denmark
7. Guatemala
8. Munich
9. Ionian
10. Shropshire