

THE GOOD, THE BAD AND THE UGLY

Our Chair, Les Chandler, tells us what's on his mind this month

Having been re-elected as Chair I'm hoping for a few less traumas this year. That would be a bonus! Not that I'm looking for rewards, unlike a newly elected u3a Chair I came across recently. He asked if there was a 'badge of office' that comes with the job. I think he was expecting robes and regalia like Mayors have! This made me smile but it's easy to underestimate the power of such finery. A few



years back Her Majesty visited Harlow and the Mayor accompanied her on a tour of the town. Returning to the Town Hall the pair passed, in the entrance, a cabinet full of the Town Council's gleaming civic regalia. "Do you ever get to wear the robe and chains?" asked the Queen. "Oh, yes" said the Mayor. "On special occasions." Oh dear!



Further proof of the power of regalia was provided by the late MP Neil Marten. He was showing visitors around the Houses of Parliament when he was spotted by his friend Lord Hailsham, dressed in his lavish Lord Chancellor's robes and regalia. "Neil", he called out, at which point Neil's visitors immediately sank to their knees!

One of the benefits of being Chair is that people tell you all sorts of useful things. For instance, did you know you could ease the pressure on the NHS if you know your NHS number? It'll be on your prescription or hospital appointment letter and will save staff having to search for your records. Thanks to Lesley for that. And Joyce says "If you like jigsaws try [Jigsaw Planet](#). It's free and has a huge selection."

Finally, a reminder from David to watch out for scam e-mails, leaflets and 'phone calls: "After Ian Keable's talk about hoaxes I received a scam 'phone call from someone purporting to be from Amazon!" It seems to be the season for scammers. I won't notify you of every scam or I'd be e-mailing you constantly. Suffice to say: be suspicious of everything, and if you're not sure get advice from someone you trust.

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MONTHLY MEETING

2nd Thursday of the month, 10 for 10.30am

11 February

The Immortal Life of Henrietta Lacks, the most important cell lines in medical history

by Andy Wilson
Next month



Thursday 11 March

The Light Music Society Library - an introduction
by Hilary Ashton

Find out about this local archive of music as the society celebrates its 60th anniversary.

