

## FROM THE EDITOR

Welcome to the April 2022 edition of the High Lane u3a newsletter. And, of course, it's April Fool's Day. We have the usual clutch of spoof stories. A selection of this year's stories includes hoverboards from Curry's, Walker's bread shaped crisps for a real crisp sandwich!, Haven's fish and chip ice cream, Subway's bread diffuser Eau de Dough, 4lite's soil powered lights for your garden, a new airline, Duolingo Air, a Deliveroo ban on pineapple pizza toppings and an app from Moonpig which will translate what your pet is saying. In case you haven't come across it, Duolingo is a popular app to help you learn new languages. Manchester City FC has another [spoof video](#) ; this year's is about their signing of a dog.

In spite of the snow yesterday, we've been having some good weather recently and spring flowers are looking good – magnolias in particular seem to be having a bumper year. Let's hope the frost doesn't get them. You can see some spring flowers in the photographs from the Gardening group on page 7.

This edition contains information about our 21<sup>st</sup> anniversary lunch in July, recent monthly meetings, news from groups and from National Office plus a selection of interesting items from members.

As with the previous editions, this newsletter will be available only by email and on the web. This edition is accompanied by the National Office March bitesize newsletter.



Please feel free to share some of your news, your interests, items you have found that you think would be of interest to other members, places you have visited, books you have read, films you have seen; your recipes, limericks; the list is endless. We'd love to hear from some of our new members.

The next issue will be May 2022 so please send your contributions to me by 29 April at [newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk](mailto:newslettereditor@highlaneu3a.org.uk)

Diane Saxon

## 21<sup>st</sup> ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

We are pleased to be able to confirm the arrangements for the lunch and here is the menu! As well as what looks like a scrummy lunch, we have a guest speaker. We will be able to give more details nearer the date.

Tickets will be available at the monthly meetings. If you can't get to a meeting contact Andre to make an arrangement to get your ticket.

### 21<sup>st</sup> Anniversary Lunch

Wednesday 6 July 2022

12.00 for 12.30 pm.

#### *THE DEANWATER HOTEL*

*Tomato and Roasted Red Pepper Soup  
Platter of Prawns with a Lemon and Chive Mayonnaise  
Caramelised Pear, Goat's Cheese and Rocket Salad with Balsamic Drizzle*



*Chicken Breast with Smoked Bacon, Leek and Mushroom Sauce  
Topside of Beef with Yorkshire Pudding, Rich Beef Gravy and Horseradish Sauce  
Poached Fillet of Salmon masked by a White Wine and Asparagus Sauce  
Sweet Potato, cashew and Apricot Chutney Tart (VG)*



*Dark Chocolate and Raspberry Torte  
Lemon and Lime Cheesecake  
Summer Berry Pavlova*

*Followed by Coffee/Tea*

*Cost £29.50*

## MONTHLY MEETING MARCH

On Wednesday 9th March we spent a most entertaining hour with Roger Browne, pianist with Manchester Jazz. He transported us, with musical accompaniment, through the story of The King's Tiger Rag and linked in his own musical journey. His journey started in Salford listening to the many varied musical programmes on the radio through the 1950s. From the age of eight he was obsessed with Al Jolsen whose music he sang in many local competitions. Later he moved on to piano playing and became hooked on Jazz.

We discovered how our young Queen Elizabeth in the early years of her reign enjoyed Winifred Atwell's piano playing and her favourite song at that time was 'Roll out the Barrel'!



Such a talented and enthusiastic musician. We would be pleased to welcome Roger back in the future.

Irene Taylor

Our next meeting is on 13 April when Sharon Evans will be talking about the Children's Air Ambulance Service.



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## VIDEO SHOWCASING OUR U3A

Thanks to members of the Photography group who have sent photos of our local area, we now have a prototype video.

Currently there are many photos of Hazel Grove but High Lane is somewhat under-represented – so if you have photos that you think illustrate the area, please send them to the editor. Perhaps there are some good photos from the surprise snowfall yesterday?



## GROUP NEWS

### CURRENT AFFAIRS

We were a very select group of three for the March Current Affairs meeting, but that didn't stop the conversation as we tried to put the world to rights. That proved to be impossible, but we still put forward our views.

The first subject discussed was, unsurprisingly, Ukraine and we wondered why the UK was requiring refugees to have visas which wasn't the case in other countries. It seems unnecessarily bureaucratic. However, the news on the day we met seems to have a glimmer of hope and by the time this is being read, maybe the situation for the suffering people of Ukraine will have eased.

On a subject nearer home, Gavin Williamson was discussed. Why, we asked, was he given a peerage? He was distinctly unpopular and unsuccessful in his post as Minister of State for Education from which he was sacked by Boris and had previously been sacked by Theresa May from his position as Defence Secretary. The reason for his honour was thought by one commentator to make sure he didn't divulge secrets he may have been privy to when he was Chief Whip.

Boris Johnson is on a visit to Saudi Arabia. Is this a wise move? On the whole we thought not.

Boris also featured in our final question which was "Has the war in Ukraine saved Boris" Time will tell, but we rather thought it might have.

One piece of news at least was cheering and that was the release of Nazanin Zaghari-Ratcliffe who was on her way back to England to be reunited with her family.

As usual, Margaret supplied cake and biscuits, to which we did justice, as always.

Pat Gorie

## **CHURCHES AND PUBS**

We now have news of our programme for this year.

May 4th. Gawsworth  
June 1st. Holiday  
July 6th. No visit. 21st Anniversary of High Lane U3a meal.  
August 3rd To be confirmed.  
Oct. 5th. To be confirmed.

If you wish to go on any of the trips, please put your name down with a £5 deposit to secure a place.

Paul Kenneth

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## **INDOOR KURLING**

The group is full at the moment. If you want to leave your name at the next meeting please do so.

Paul Kenneth

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## **MEMOIRS**

There is a lot of enthusiasm in the group and we all enjoy going down "Memory Lane" and hopefully preparing a memoir which future generations can enjoy. Sharing experiences often sparks off ideas in other members. At the moment the group is full but please contact me if you are interested and wish to join the waiting list.

Sheila Harrop

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## **HIGH LANE VILLAGE HALL COMMUNITY COFFEE MORNINGS**

High Lane Village Hall is opening its doors to trial a community coffee morning open to all. On Monday, 4th and 11th April 10.30 to 12 noon, residents of any age (youngsters, oldsters and inbetweeners) are invited to join us for coffee/tea and biscuits and a friendly chat with our volunteers. We look forward to meeting up with our community.

## **CINEMA**

This month we have a new review of a recent film from a member of the group.

The film *The Duke* was excellent, Jim Broadbent and Helen Mirren at their best. The dialogue was incredibly satirically funny. It was based on a true event in 1961 when a retired bus driver stole a portrait of the Duke of Wellington from the National Gallery. In June 1965 he sent an anonymous letter to a newspaper demanding a donation of £140,000 to charity, an amnesty for the thief and enclosing a left-luggage ticket issued at Birmingham New Street station.

The funniest scenes were in the court when he was on trial. His defence was that pensioners were being ripped off because they had to have a licence to watch the BBC and that he had only borrowed the painting and always intended to return it. That's all, I don't want to spoil the end if you haven't seen it.

Pam Curley

## **THEATRE**

Chris has clearly enjoyed her visit to the Garrick to see their latest production, the *Hound of the Baskervilles*.

What a delight this production was. Not sure it would have met with Conan Doyle's approval, but it certainly met with mine and the rest of the admittedly small audience.

This was a riotous rollicking show admirably performed by just three actors. They really earned their crust playing 16 characters between them. The cast interacted with the audience and there seemed to be a plant amongst them who was offering funny comments along the way. (I'm assuming a plant and not just an enthusiastic audience member!)

All the elements of Sir Arthur's story are there but told in an inventive way. The original production company is Peepolykus; they certainly have a novel way of looking at this classic murder mystery story.

It was a good way to counteract all the bad news that we are surrounded by just now and we left feeling lighter than when we went in.

Chris Edmunds

## GARDENING

A good March spell of dry sunny weather is just what the doctor ordered as far as gardeners are concerned. The ravages of winter storms and the plethora of fast-growing weeds can be tackled to make gardens look shipshape again. It didn't help the group leader for the first in-house visit of the year. Non-stop rain kept us inside and well refreshed instead - beautiful weather the day before and the day after.

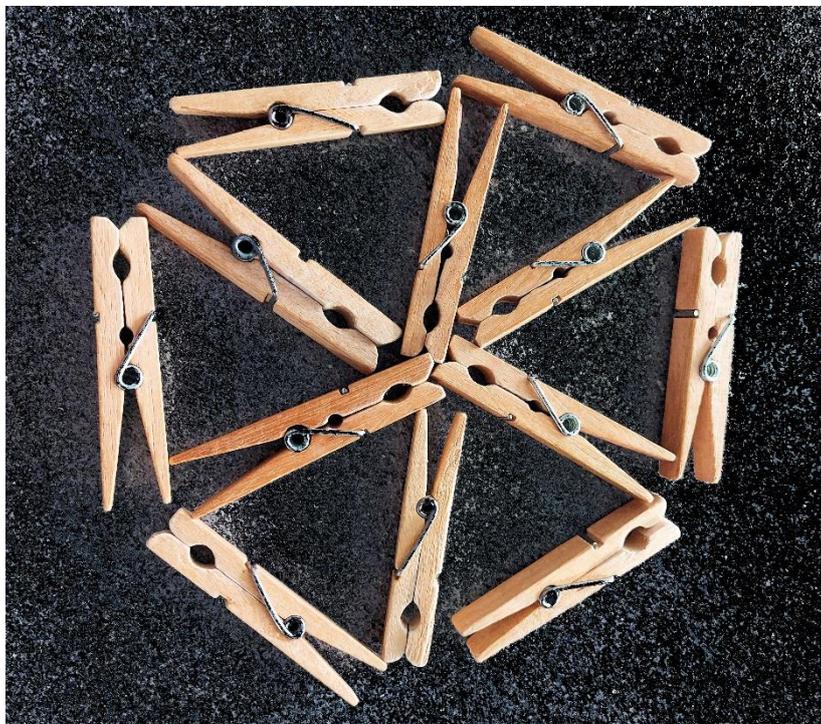
Some colourful pictures from the group. Some flowers from Kew - courtesy of Chris H - mainly orchids, contrast with local Spring flowers in Hazel Grove.



Walter Mason

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

This month's competition was Wood (but not trees). Winning photographs were:  
Joint 1st. Jewellery box – Jeff and Hexagonal pegs – Diane  
3rd Anyone for a game – Diane



Thanks for all your entries. Well done everybody.

The topic for next month is 'Things beginning with T'

Jeff Robinson

## TRAVEL

### 2022 HOLIDAYS AND VISITS

**KENT** June 12th-17th

BALANCE AT APRIL MEETING

**RHINE CRUISE** August 9th-16th

BALANCE AND TRAVEL INSURANCE DETAILS AT APRIL MEETING

**IRELAND** September 4th-8th

More information later.

**LINCOLN** October 14th-17th

Half Board at Holiday Inn Lincoln.

Approx. £360 including entrance fees.

DEPOSIT £50 AT MAY MEETING

## DAY VISITS

**RHS BRIDGEWATER** June 24th

Details at April meeting

**LIVERPOOL** July 20th

Tour of Liverpool Cathedrals

PM Own choice of activities most of which are free. Museums, Art Galleries, St.

George's Hall, River Cruise (Charge), Shopping.

Approx. £25 depending on numbers.

PAYMENT AT MAY MEETING

**BOLSOVER CASTLE** August 27th

Medieval Jousting Event

Approx. £28

PAYMENT AT JUNE MEETING

## QUIZZING

Quiz group members met on their usual date of the fourth Thursday in March for their session of brain torture. This month we faced some challenging questions in the quiz set by Margaret. Our top scorer just about beat 50% so you can see it wasn't a push over. New quizzers are welcome. Please contact me if you would like to join us.

Diane Saxon

Paul has set a few questions for you. Answers are on page 15.

- 1 What links Pablo Casals, Jacqueline du Pre and Julian Lloyd Webber?
- 2 Meg, Jo, Beth, Amy are sisters in which literary family?
- 3 What is a lifting device, a playing card, a small flag flown at the bow of a ship?
- 4 Goneril, Regan, Cordelia are all what?
- 5 Tangerine trees, newspaper taxis, marmalade skies feature in which song?
- 6 What do London, Belfast, Southampton, Coventry, Cardiff have in common?

And we have a photo for those of us who have lived in the area for some time. Can anyone name just two of this talented team from Hazel Grove Printing and Boxmaking, circa 1954. Suggestions to the editor please.



## THE MANCHESTER BOMB

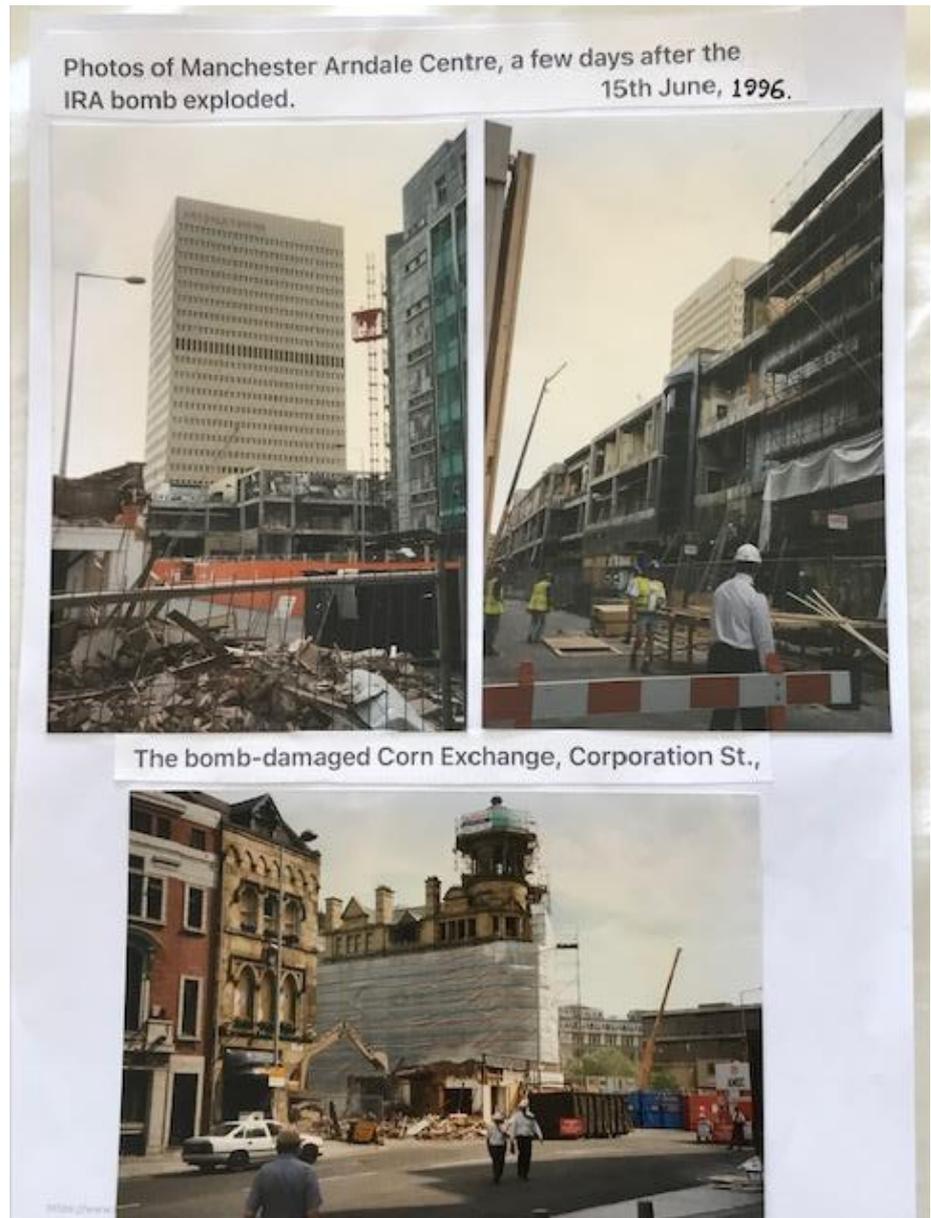
It was a lovely sunny Saturday morning, 15th June 1996, the day before Father's Day. I was in the back garden of my house, picking some flowers for the dining table. Then I heard a loud explosion. – I thought a gas main had blown up, or something like that. I soon found out from the news on the radio that a bomb had exploded in Manchester, six miles away. Luckily, we weren't "shopaholics" so rarely went into the City at the weekend, but couldn't help thinking "what if.....?"

It was a miracle, and a credit to the evacuation procedures that only a few people ended up seriously injured. The Manchester Evening News reported that it took just 20 police officers, helped by security guards, firemen and paramedics, to evacuate 80,000 people in 1 hour.

Marks and Spencer's and parts of the Arndale Centre were destroyed, the dome of the Royal Exchange building lifted several inches and some windows were blown out of the Cathedral.

It could be argued that the bomb did Manchester a favour in its regeneration plans. They were funded by insurance, Government and European money,

and £500m of private investments. Marks and Spencer's built a huge flagship store (the largest in Europe) with a multi-million pound National Lottery grant.



Unfortunately, that company ran into financial difficulties later, and now shares the building with Selfridges. The city, over the following 10 years, was gradually rebuilt and we now have some fine buildings, and a very vibrant attractive city. It's been good to go back there, especially to the Art Gallery and the Royal Exchange, now that Covid restrictions have been lifted.

Mavis Dean

## **NEWS FROM THE NATIONAL OFFICE AND NORTH WEST REGION of u3as**

### **u3a at the RI 31 October**

Until March 2020, u3a members were able to take part in two afternoons a year at the Royal Institution in Albemarle Street in London until the pandemic struck on the day before the first RI session that year.

I'm sure that erstwhile Science group members will be interested to hear that the u3a RI lectures are to recommence later this year – and we won't have to take the train to London to attend. The event will return, as a hybrid event, on 31 October 2022.

### **u3a science network**

u3a Science Network meeting 5 April 2022 10:30 AM to 3:00 PM

As I write registration is still open for this meeting.

A science-based learning event with 3 presentations of 45 minutes followed by questions after each, with a break for refreshments and for lunch. The meeting will start at 10:30 (doors open at 10:15) and will end with a short Summary and Thanks session at 3 o'clock.

### **Booking**

To book a place on this Free event, please go to the [u3a Science Network website](#) and click the Registration option for the April meeting. Presentations will be made on:

- The Manhattan Project and the British bomb
- Glass: a look inside
- The scale of the Universe
- The day will conclude with Thanks, a Summary and an announcement about the July meeting.

## THIRD AGE TRUST EVENTS

There are a number of events that look interesting in the next couple of months. All these are on Zoom but you don't need Zoom to watch. You just need a device connected to the Internet. The events I have checked are still taking bookings.

I see you can now subscribe to find out about events as they become available. This should help if you wish to get in early to secure a place. Go to the Events page at <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/educational-events> and click on Subscribe.



### How to Crochet a Creature

As part of the Extreme Crochet initiative, Trust u3a's Groups Coordinator Chris Winner offers a live workshop

Tues 5th April at 10am

**Free – Online via Zoom**



### The Geology of Igneous Rocks – part 2

Join Martin Eales, Sutton u3a, for the second part of this discussion on Igneous Rocks

Thursday 7th April at 2pm

**Free – Online via Zoom**



### An introduction to Evidence Based Medicine

Join Cochrane speaker Rebecca Gould to learn about the role of evidence when making decisions about our health.

Fri 8th April at 2pm

**Free – Online via Zoom**

### u3a Radio Podcast

Listen to our radio podcast on the 17th of every month.

**Free – via YouTube or podcast platforms Apple, Spotify and Google**

### Roger Black – From Olympics to Now

GB Olympian Roger Black offers u3a members a talk; reviewing his Olympic career and maintaining fitness now

Tues 12th April 2pm

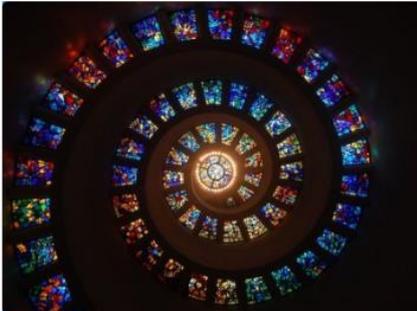
**Free – Online via Zoom**

### Laughter Yoga Workshops – New Sessions!

Join Judith Walker, Edinburgh u3a, on the 2nd Wednesday of every month

13/04, 04/05 & 2nd Wednesdays at 10am

**Free – Online via Zoom**



### **Do All Religions Lead to the Same God?**

Join subject adviser for Exploring World Faiths, Dr Peter Rookes.

Weds 20th April at 10am

**Free – Online via Zoom**



### **Book Groups Discussion Forum**

Join Richard Peoples, Subject Adviser for Book Groups, to exchange ideas on how to run a book group.

Friday 22nd April at 2pm

**Free – Online via Zoom**



### **Cryptic Crosswords for Beginners – May/June**

Join Henry Howarth, Subject Adviser for Cryptic Crosswords, for a six-week course on solving cryptic crosswords.

Thurs, 5th May to 16th June at 10am

**Free – Online via Zoom**



### **The Stories of the Willow Pattern Plate**

Irene Kyffin, London u3a, talks us through the making of the Willow Pattern Plates.

Friday 13th May at 2pm

**Free – Online via Zoom**



### **40th Anniversary Edition – Picnic in the Park – Live Cookery Demonstration**

Join Chef Alex from 'Vegetarian for Life' for delicious picnic recipes

Photo credit: Vegetarian for Life

Monday 16th May 10.30am

**Free – Online via Zoom**



### **All about Pictish Stones**

Join Philip Holdsworth for a discussion on the Picts and their relations with their neighbours.

Friday 20th May at 10am

**Free – Online via Zoom**

## Aren't you too old to be listening to that?

Published: 08 February 2022

Our recent surveys into music and ageism revealed over half of the public think music tastes should reflect people's age, whilst the majority of u3a members feel that age is not a factor in the music they love.

87% of u3a members surveyed felt that age had no impact on their music taste – but one in 10 members had felt patronized for listening to younger artists. One member said, "Some have looked at me in shock as I sung a bit of Grime" whilst another member shared that they receive comments such as "Aren't you too old to be listening to that?" This tied in with a survey of the general population, which found that 54% felt you could be 'too old' for certain music.

Despite this, the surveys also found that music was a way for generations to connect with each other. 77% of members believe music can provide a way to bond with younger generations whilst 35% of the public say they chat to their parents about music.

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## SOUTHPORT FLOWER SHOW

Southport u3a is creating a Show Garden at Southport Flower Show.



The final garden design needs to be presented to the Flower Show by April and the Group are working with a designer to create a garden with the title "u3a 40th Anniversary". It is the aim to include many aspects of the diverse nature of our u3a, which has nearly 100 Groups, as features in the design. Further details can be found on the u3a website and in the national newsletter.

Southport Flower Show runs from 18–21 August 2022. There is a special discount for u3a members, who will be able to get tickets for £18, compared to the gate price of £27, using the promotional code, 'u3a' when buying tickets on the [Southport Flower Show website](#).

### Quiz answers

- 1 Cello.
- 2 March.
- 3 Jack.
- 4 King Lear's daughters.
- 5 Lucy in the sky with diamonds.
- 6 Dialling codes beginning with 02.

**SNIPPETS**

**DID YOU KNOW?**

According to the [History Channel](#), April Fools’ Day has been celebrated for several centuries by different cultures, though its exact origins remain a mystery. Some historians speculate that April Fools’ Day dates back to 1582, when France switched from the Julian calendar to the Gregorian calendar, as called for by the Council of Trent in 1563. In the Julian Calendar, as in the Hindu calendar, the new year began with the spring equinox around April 1. People who were slow to get the news or failed to recognize that the start of the new year had moved to January 1 and continued to celebrate it during the last week of March through April 1 became the butt of jokes and hoaxes and were called “April fools.” These pranks included having paper fish placed on their backs and being referred to as “poisson d’avril” (April fish), said to symbolize a young, easily caught fish and a gullible person. Historians have also linked April Fools’ Day to festivals such as Hilaria (Latin for joyful), which was celebrated in ancient Rome at the end of March by followers of the cult of Cybele.

April Fools’ Day spread throughout Britain during the 18th century. In Scotland, the tradition became a two-day event, starting with “hunting the gowk,” in which people were sent on phony errands (gowk is a word for cuckoo bird, a symbol for fool) and followed by Tailie Day, which involved pranks played on people’s derrieres, such as pinning fake tails or “kick me” signs on them.

One April Fool’s Day  
 He thought he would play  
 A practical joke  
 But, the window, it broke  
 So he just ran away

You can also read about historical hoaxes over the years. In 1856, the Tower of London hosted a lion washing extravaganza, in 1976 astronomer Patrick Moore claimed that gravity would be reduced, and people would levitate, <https://www.history.com/topics/holidays/april-fools-day>



<https://www.funnyteeshirts.co.uk>