

## Are We/Aren't We Unlocked News: July 2021

As the anticipated lockdown release date of 21<sup>st</sup> June has come and gone, the next meeting will have to be a restricted one again. This time, though, there are no priorities being set (apart from some spaces for the committee members running the evening) so places will be on a first come, first served basis for all. The start date for bookings is **Wednesday 30<sup>th</sup> June at 10 a.m.**, so please do not try to book before then.

The following rules will still apply:

- Social distancing will be in place (1 to 2 metres apart, please)
- Face masks must be worn (unless officially exempt for medical reasons)
- Sanitizers will be available on entry and exit
- Entrance will be via the front door in Hamilton Road
- Exit will be via the back door and the car park (i.e. entrance and exit to be via separate doors)
- A record will be kept of all members attending (that of course happens anyway)
- No refreshments will be served
- The hall premises will be cleaned before and after use
- Only 30 members can be accommodated
- No visitors will be able to attend at present and so the meetings will not be advertised on the website.

**Next meeting: "The Angerstein Family" with Lynne Dixon**

**Tuesday 6th July at 7.15p.m. in St Lawrence's Hall**

John Julius Angerstein was a self-made man and both his origins and business enterprises have been the subject of controversy. He and his family settled at Woodlands in Blackheath in the 1770s and their link continued with the area for three generations. Like many men of wealth and position he has left his mark both locally and nationally and he is sure to feature in the bi-centenary commemoration of the National Gallery in three years time. The talk is based on the researches of Dr Anthony Twist who wrote a Phd thesis and book, 'A Life of John Julius Angerstein, 1735-1823: Widening Circles in Finance, Philanthropy and the Arts in Eighteenth Century London'.

***Places restricted due to Covid 19. Please see below to book***

### **Booking your place at the 6<sup>th</sup> July meeting**

Due to ongoing restrictions there is the need to allocate no more than 30 places. Bookings will open on **Wednesday, 30<sup>th</sup> June from 10 a.m. (not before, please)** and run until all places have been allocated.

Telephone Jennifer or Philip Willson [REDACTED]

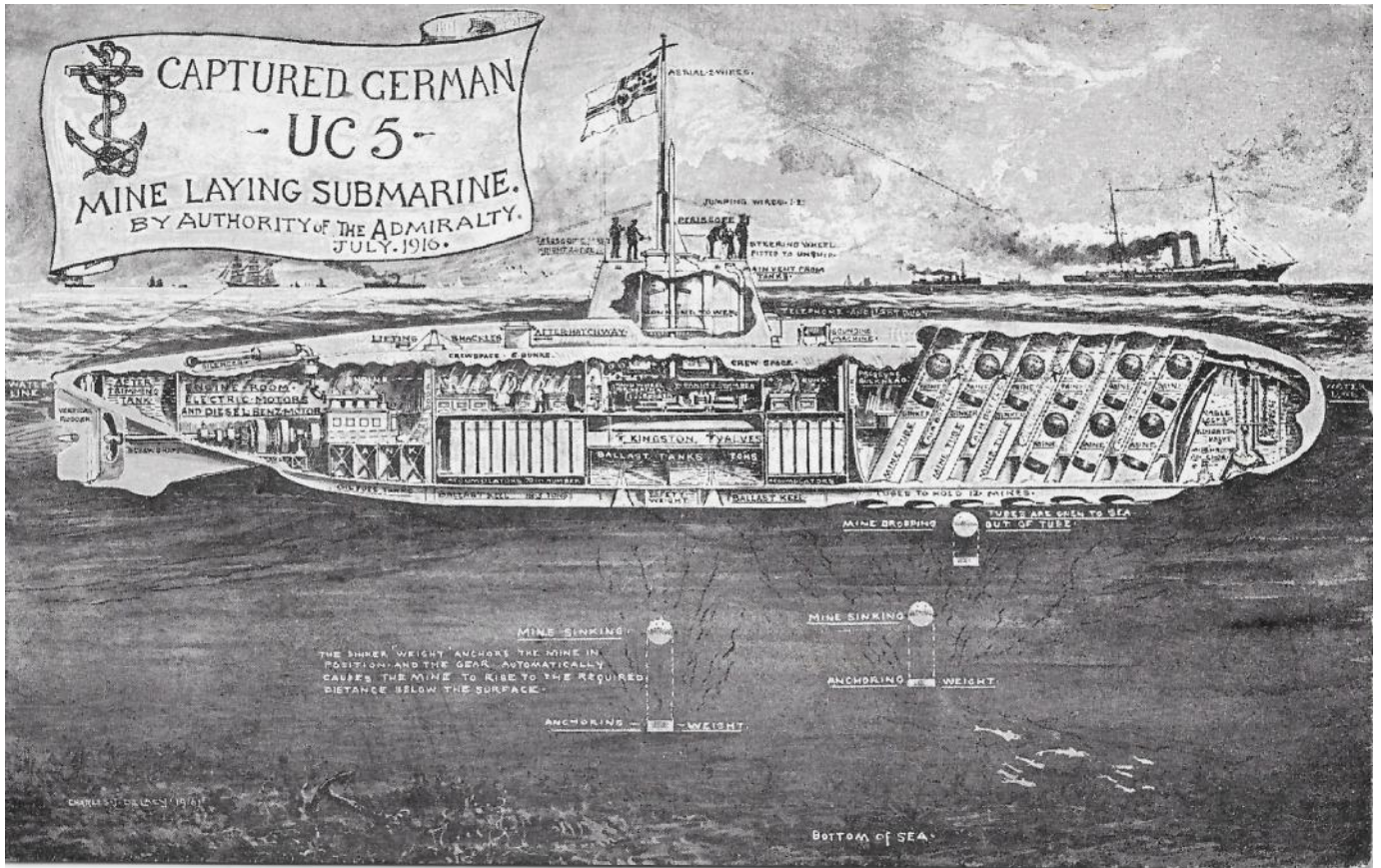
Please leave an answerphone message if we do not answer stating your name(s) and number of seats required. You must be paid up members as there will be no space for visitors.

***Please note that messages received before 30<sup>th</sup> June will not be acted upon.***

We will let everyone know whether they have been successful or not. If you have booked but then change your mind or cannot attend the meeting then please would you let us know so that the place can be reallocated.

## A Great War Memory

I recently came across this postcard issued by the Admiralty during WW1. It is a drawing of the German UC5 mine laying submarine that went aground east of Harwich/Felixstowe in April 1916. Even though it only entered service in June 1915, it had a successful career having sunk one Royal Navy destroyer (HMS *Velox*), 29 merchant ships and damaged 7 other merchants. It carried 12 mines in 6 launch tubes.



Her crew members were captured by HMS *Firedrake* and the U-boat was salvaged and put into a floating dock by teams from Chatham and Harwich. This was quite a dangerous procedure as there were explosive charges rigged up in the event of the boat's capture as well as two mines still on board. Luckily, one of the RN officers was warned of the explosives by a prisoner, so they could be safely dealt with.



The U-Boat was eventually towed to Sheerness and put on display to journalists and a couple of war artists. Then it was moved and displayed to the public at Temple Pier in London.

Finally in 1917 it was cut into three sections and taken across the Atlantic for fundraising displays in New York. After the war it was assumed to have been broken up for scrap.

*UC5 in Central Park, New York.*