



February Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Waste Collection. The Frustration.

Grey waste bins emptied two weeks ago.

I look out of the Kitchen window. I see **green bins** lined up like sentinels outside peoples' homes. Been lined up like that for 6 weeks or more. We all wait in anticipation; it even becomes a topic of conversation. But wait! I hear the sound of the refuse lorry. I don't believe it, **bins emptied!**

Job done what a relief!

How we tend to take something as necessary as waste disposal for granted.

Just a little trivia.

Here are some dates that most of us have witnessed.

5/5/55

6/6/66

7/7/77

8/8/88

9/9/99

10/10/10

11/11/11

22/2/22

How time flies!

Interesting for English Lovers.

I think it is absolutely brilliant.

Once Ishwarchandra Vidyasagar, Bengali poet and scholar, jokingly asked Michael Madhusudhun Dutt and Anglophile poet of great repute; "As you are a master in English, can you make a sentence without using a single 'E'?"



Dutt, the genius, wrote this:

"I doubt I can. It's a major part of many words. Omitting it is as hard as making Muffins without flour. It's as hard as spitting without saliva, napping without a pillow, driving a train without tracks, sailing to Russia without a boat, washing your hands without soap. And anyway, what would I gain? An award? A cash bonus? Bragging rights? Why should I strain my brain? It's not worth it."

Hope you find this interesting.

Alan Harding – Chairman

BRIAN'S MUSINGS



As a specifically transitional month February is full of import and interest. On its second day the festival of Christmas formally comes to an end with Candlemas or Imbolc if one is a pagan – decorations can come down on the third. We can then begin to address ourselves to the advent of Spring.

At this time of year, when it can still be very wet and cold in our bit of the planet and winter seems to be anything but over, one might see this time as simply to be endured with as much fortitude as we can muster for the occasion. Nature seems to think otherwise. In response to the gradual extension of daylight hours, snowdrops are beginning to flower, with many other life forms following their example. For our ancestors, winter was a life and death event, as for many of us it still is, in spite of the modern technology that is sometimes available to minister to our suffering. It is a time when a great deal of stress is placed on all physical systems, even to the point of breaking. This has ever been the case.

Nature uses roots, bulbs, seeds and hibernation to negotiate this period and is exemplified and enacted in the great death and rebirth dramas that we have unconsciously incorporated into our culture and though we might find this entertaining we collectively decline to benefit from the instruction that it offers. In our artificially heated areas of containment, we carry on as though high summer were a perpetual reality when clearly it is not. Vast amounts of fuel will carry us to warmer environments and from these will come the unseasonable fruits to which we now feel we have a right, largely ignoring the nutritional benefits provided, appropriate to the season, by foods produced in our own latitudes.

February offers us an interesting degree of choice: we can align ourselves, pessimistically, with a winter that seems to have gone on for far too long, we can create false summers or we can try to become a receptive and meaningful participant in the process that is now unfolding. I have long been aware of the myths, legends and dream material that portray this struggle, particularly when they come with clear directions as to how we might best respond. They demonstrate repeatedly how the darkly negative forces of destruction must take us to the point of total failure before any real and profound change is possible. Until then we keep reverting to our old ways and try to reassert life strategies that are no longer applicable. It is only when all seems to be lost that we might just become open to viable alternatives.

It is then, according to the ancient tales, that we become open to an extra dimensional alternative; in pantomime this is usually a fairy-godmother but can also be portrayed as an old, wise being, often with a magic herb or artefact by means of which the healing process begins. The hero-protagonist does not always live but his or her death has a deeply transformative effect on those left behind. As someone with a scientific background I am hugely interested in the direction that physicist are taking in their explorations. By definition their quest is limited to research into the nature of matter. This has brought them to a point at which they can go no further without acknowledging the existence of dimensions that, whilst affecting matter at its most fundamental level, are not in themselves material. Matter, as such, does not exist. It is a manifestation of energy which is generated in the zero-point-field; which is to say that we do not know what or why it is or where it comes from. It is a bit like trying to teach trigonometry to earthworm. They just don't get it.

There is a similar problem with information. Every point of the universe is dense with 'information' to a degree that is incomprehensible to us in an apparent prison of limiting dimensions. Do earthworms really need maths and science? Some of us most certainly do! Winters of discontent bring with them a demand for something better that a long-distance flight to Mexico will not fix. The sure knowledge of being in a system that is dense with energy and information endorses an innate certainty that somewhere, somehow there are other dimensions which, sure as the coming spring, will reveal themselves given time and a great deal of humility. There must be a different and better way of doing things.

Brian Gill

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA OCTOBER TO JULY 2023

Please contact Joan Benton on 0151 608 6226 if you would like to change your duty date.

2nd February

Lorraine Malyj

Wendy Devonald

16th February

Will Edwards

Judith Wylie

2nd March

Poppy Lewis

Sue Berry



16th March

**Hilary Robinson
Maureen Oldham**

30th March

**Barbara Baker
Kathy Sullivan**

13th April

**Joyce Roberts
Jean Skillicorn
Beryl Davies**



27th April

**Norma Finlayson
Ann Greenhalgh**

11th May

**Brenda George
Maureen Jones**



25th May

**Greig Roberts
John Roberts**

8th June

**Mary Hamilton
Gwyn Thomas**

22nd June

**Elizabeth Harding
Sylvia Hunt**



6th July

**Barbara Riley
Marian Jackson**

(so far) Speakers 2023

- 16th February 2023:** Joanna Williams: 'The Great Miss Lydia Becker; a Suffragette, Scientist and a Trailblazer!'
- 16th March 2023:** Roger Devonside: 'Devil Wing Walker'
- 13th April 2023:** David Hearn: 'Wirral Peninsula'
- 11th May 2023:** Rob Dolphin: 'Friends of Flaybrick'
- 8th June 2023:** Pauline Roberts: Travel, holidays

2023 Social meetings

- February 2nd** DVD: Wirral Memories – 1960s and 70s.
- March 2nd** Colin's Quiz
- March 30th** DVD: Cammell Laird's Old Ships and Hard Ships.
- April 27th** Colin's Quiz
- May 25th** DVD: Liners and Launches

. Colin Stredder

Lunch Group Dates

Colin Shredder

- 21st February 2023** Travellers Rest, 169 Mount Road. Bebington.
- 21st March 2023** The Basset Hound, 107 Barnston Road, Thingwall.CH61 1AS
- 18th April 2023** The Kings Arm, Kings Lane, Bebington. CH63 8NR.Pest
- 16th May 2023** Pesto, 50 Dibbinsdale Road, Bromborough. CH63 0HJ.
- 20th June 2023** Three Stags, Church Road, Bebington. CH63 3EA.
- 18th July 2023** AFTERNOON TEA. Venue to be arranged.



Group News

A Book and a Glass of Wine: **Judith Whaley**

Meet on last Thursday of month. The group is full at the moment.



Amateur Astronomy **Paul Cullen, Judith Wylie**

Paul will inform members when an interesting event is due.



Bridge: **Tony Swarbrick** bridge@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Meetings will be in "The Cabin" at Trinity and are held on 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays each month, 10.15am to 12.30.

We meet to play friendly relaxed bridge and new members are always welcome.

N.B. Please check the meetings for February as Tony is due to have an operation on or around the 8th, so that one is almost certainly cancelled.



Book Club: **Mary O'Neill**

Meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm. The next meeting is on February 14th. Mary has room for one or two more members; anyone interested should contact Tony Swarbrick our Group Co-ordinator.



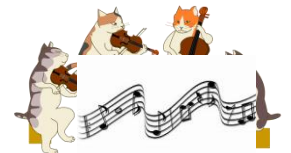
Lunch Circle: **Colin Stredder**

The Lunch Circle meets on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 12.45 for 1pm lunch. The next meeting is on February 21st at the Traveller's Rest, Bebington.



Music Appreciation: **Paul Cullen**

The next meeting will be on February 6th at Paul's house. Bring some music you like along. Meetings are now on the 1st Monday of the month 2-4pm.



Walking Group:

The next walk – no news yet; to be advised.

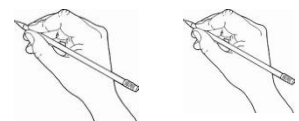


Art Group **Bernadette Hamilton**

The next Meeting will be at TWPG in the Sessions Room on Wednesday February 15th – Lady Lever Art Gallery; 'Pre-Raphaelite paintings', led by Steve Cottam.



Drawing Group: The next meeting will be on Friday, February 3rd in the Cabin, from 10am to 12.



The Play Reading: Eliane Davie

The Group meets at Eliane’s house on the second Tuesdays of the month at 10am- 12.30pm. The next meeting is on February 14th when we will be reading “Billy Liar” by Keith Waterhouse and Willis Hall OR “The Lion in Winter” by James Goldman.



Craft Group! Joan Benton Joan has started her new Craft Group. It takes place on the 4th Monday of each month at her home. Next meeting is on February 27th. New members welcome; those interested should email Tony at: groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk



Nordic Walking, Corinne Whitham

Meets every week at 10am Tuesdays at the Visitor Centre in Birkenhead Park. If you can’t come every week simply come when available, as often or as little as suits. Open to all, why not give it a try? A pair of poles is essential, standard walking ones will do to start. Lightweight walking shoes or trainers are best. Expect to walk for one hour at a smart pace.



Scrabble: Joan Parfect

The group is now full.

Christmas Lunch Refunds

Would members who have not yet claimed their refund of £5 for the missed first course of the meal, please contact Barbara Winstanley at the next meeting, so that she can give it to them. This was an error on the part of the venue who apologise profusely for the mix up.

Walking Group (January 27th)

The Walking Group met at Central Station to start our Three Parks Walk. We were blessed with a fine morning with clear skies and walked through the sunken way by Liverpool Cathedral, where gravestones form the walls of the pathway. As an interesting record of part of Liverpool’s history it is worth a visit when near the Cathedral. Reaching Sefton Park where the snowdrops were starting to bud, we continued into Prince’s Park where we paused for refreshment at the coffee and ice cream cafe for twenty minutes before walking past the famous summer house to reach our final Park, Otterspool, which took us through to Otterspool Promenade. The sun was still shining as we walked the further few miles to Britannia Inn where we enjoyed our lunch before walking to the station to return to Wirral.



The walk was led by Ken Jackson; many thanks to Ken for organising a happy day!

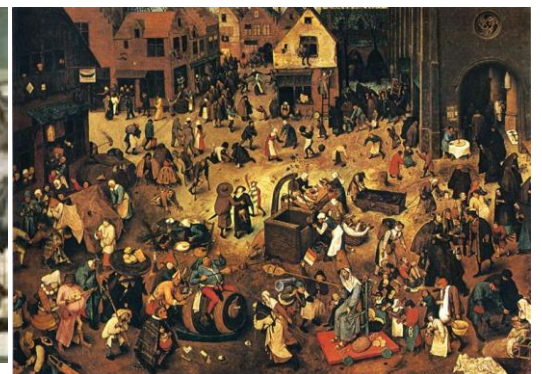


Art Appreciation Group

On January 18th the Group attended a really interesting talk on Breugel by Pauline Horner.



Breugel the Elder was born in 1525 and died in 1559. He was a Flemish Renaissance painter who headed a family of painters. Known for his detailed intricate figures, he left around 40 surviving paintings.





Pauline Has visited the Kunsthistorisches Museum where many of his painting are on show and was able to obtain a wonderful selection of photos of some of his works and explain them to us. Thank you so much Pauline for an enlightening presentation and also Bernadette for organising the talk and also contributing. Ed.

Art Appreciation Programme - Bernadette Hamilton

February 15th - Lady Lever Art gallery

Pre – Raphaelite paintings: Led by Steve Cottam.

March 15th -Trinity with Palm Grove

Van Gogh: - Presentation by Bernadette Hamilton

April 19th - Trinity with Palm Grove

Paula Rego: Presentation by Bernadette Hamilton

May 17th - World Museum Liverpool

Return of the Gods Exhibition: Led by Bernadette Hamilton

June 21st - Walker Art Gallery Liverpool

Renaissance Rooms: Led by Bernadette Hamilton

July 19th – To be arranged

Please make a note in your diaries

Corinne Whitham with her Nordic Walking Group

Corinne would like to remind you that the Group meets every Tuesday at 10am outside the Visitor Centre in Birkenhead Park. She doesn't mind if you can't come every week but do try it. As you can see below, it is fun and great exercise without being overtaxing. (See above in Group News).





Books and Jigsaws



Thank you everyone for thinning down the books and jigsaw collections; they are at a much more manageable number now and we can return to bringing in books and jigsaws for exchange again. In the interest of not getting stock in excess of storage space again, please keep to only bringing the number of books that you take – it seems to work really well!

Friendly Ear

If you know of any member who is sick, in hospital or in need of a friendly chat please let Mary Hamilton or Dot Matthews know. They will contact them to see whether they need help and send cards (where applicable)



And finally

I hope that you are finding the newsletter useful and interesting. Please don't forget that it is YOUR newsletter and if you wish to send an article, photos or ideas that you think might be of interest to the membership, don't hesitate to e-mail them to me at the address given. I would love to hear from you.

We have St. Valentine's Day on the 14th of February; a good time to remember and to show appreciation to those we love if we are lucky enough to still have them close. It was my late husband's birthday, so easy to remember for both reasons!

If there is anyone who would like to organise an outing (perhaps with a partner or friend) please let the Committee know.

Eliane Davie - Editor

