



April Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Roger Devonside "Devil Wing Walker".



What a remarkable man, what a remarkable speaker at our meeting on the 16th March!

With much humour, he told us of his excitement at first deciding to become a wing walker. His trepidation whilst travelling by car to the Airfield for his first flight and his jubilation after completing his first wing walk, just the first of many.

A little like becoming a member of our U3A Committee. First you may think it is a good idea, then perhaps not such a good idea. But having decided to join and finding out what it would entail, it really can become quite enjoyable and very rewarding.

Three members of your committee have reached the end of their tenure and they must be replaced. Your Chairman and Secretary reach the end of their tenure in April 2024.

I cannot emphasise enough the importance of new members joining our U3A Committee. The future of our Oxton & Prenton U3A Group depends on all of us. Please attend our AGM on the 27th April, 2023.

WE REALLY NEED YOUR HELP IF WE ARE TO CONTINUE.

On The Lighter Side:

The names of all the continents end with the same letter that they started with.

TYPEWRITER is the longest word that can be written using the letters only on one row of the keyboard.

Minus 40 degrees Celsius is exactly the same as minus 40 degrees Fahrenheit.

Chocolate can kill dogs, as it contains theobromine, which affects their heart and nervous system.

Women blink nearly twice as much as Men.

Alan Harding – Chairman



BRIAN'S MUSINGS



If I had to name a favourite month it would be April. It is by no means ideal; frosts can still occur to the very end of the month so one has to be wary of investing too much in this season of cautiously exuberant growth but even so there is so much promise that it is difficult not to be affected, inspired and even hopeful for a renewed dispensation.

At a time when nature is being universally exploited and despoiled, it is incumbent upon each one of us to do whatever we can to encourage, protect, repair and restore wherever, whenever and whatever we can. We are all having to learn how to live in a viable environment on a densely populated planet beyond all previous experience. As a species we are newly come and have so far, thanks to our native intelligence, managed to transcend the checks and balances of war, famine and disease that normally regulate mammalian exuberant expansion.

The gardeners amongst us know only too well the importance of some degree of order and control whilst at the same time allowing for the happy accident and creative discovery that nature itself affords. This requires a certain degree of wisdom and humility as we seek that vital balance in relationship between creativity, freedom and control. Experience suggests that we tend to learn a great deal more from mistakes and losses than we do from success – which brings its own, immediate reward. Success and growth, so greatly prized in our present culture, can take us into all manner of dubious cul-de-sacs. Sustainability seems to be a more worthy and appropriate objective in our current situation. A balanced and harmonious environment is a condition that requires understanding and application.

Science cannot account for the fact that we have a greater neuronal capacity than we actually need in order to survive; some might say more than is good for us and plenty spare to misapply. It is also suggested that this enhanced capacity arises from the complexity of our relationship potential. Who knows what exciting new hybrids have yet to be revealed? We appear to be an evolving species but to what

evolutionary end? Aggressive competition might ultimately produce supremely dominant super-beings with the strength and power to impose their will on all within their aegis; or else a quest for a mutually beneficial culture of creative relationship might produce super-beings offering an altruistic and effective vehicle for life, energy and consciousness without limit, (unity in diversity) or we could self-destruct. Nature provides us with graphic examples of all three possible outcomes.

We are perhaps unique as a life-form in that we are able, to some extent, to understand something of the options that confront us and make choices. Unity in diversity seems to be the cosmological option. It all holds together somehow – and so might we.

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.

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

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

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

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

The group is now full. **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

Meetings will be in "The Cabin" at Trinity and are held on 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays each month, 10.15am to 12.30. Tony will inform group members of meeting dates during periods when he will be away on usual days. (Mainly in March)
We meet to play friendly relaxed bridge and new members are always welcome.



Book Club: Mary O'Neill

Meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm. The next meeting is on April 11th. 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 April 18th at the Kings Arms, King Lane, Bebington. CH63 8NR



Music Appreciation: Paul Cullen

The next meeting will be on April 3rd 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.

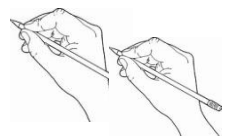
Art Group Bernadette Hamilton

April 19th– There is an alteration to the next meeting; it will be at the Williamson Art Gallery in Slatey Road. We will meet in the coffee bar before looking at a new exhibition in the Gallery, "Open Art & Photography Exhibition"



Drawing Group: Pauline Horner

There will be no meeting in April but there will be one on March 31st in its place. Taking place 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-12.30. The next meeting will be on Tuesday April 11th when we will be reading "Gigi", a comedy dramatized by Anita Loos (from the Novel by

Colette). This is a charming period play set in Paris circa 1900.



Craft Group! **Joan Benton**

Meetings take place on the 4th Monday of each month at her home; next meeting is on March 27th. Then April 24th. Places on this group are full at the moment.



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 Perfect**

This Group is full at the moment.



Walking Group

There is no walk planned for March but we hope to have one for April. To be advised.



Art Appreciation Programme - **Bernadette Hamilton**

April 19th - Williamson Gallery (change)

May 17th - World Museum Liverpool

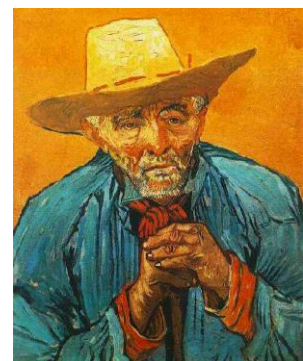
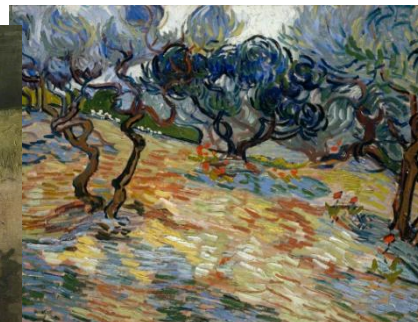
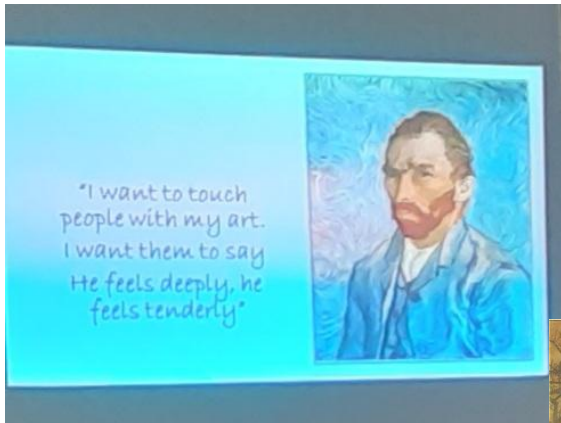
Return of the Gods Exhibition: Led by Bernadette Hamilton.



June 21st – Presentation on Paula Rego given by Bernadette Hamilton.

July 19th – To be arranged. **Please make a note in your diaries**

Van Gogh – Another great informative talk from Bernadette!



On March 15th we enjoyed a wonderful talk on Van Gogh the Dutch painter who only sold one painting during his life and is now one of the most famous! Bernadette is an inspirational speaker with an enthusiasm and knowledge of her subject that encourages us to learn more. I hadn't realised what a gift for writing letters Van Gogh also possessed and have looked up some of them on the internet; well worth reading. He is noted for his use of colour.

Born in 1853 to Dutch parents, Theodorus a pastor of the Dutch Reformed Church and Anna Carpentus, his mother, Vincent left school at 15. After studying to become a pastor for a while, he tried, unsuccessfully to be a bookseller and suffered two unsuitable romances before he became apprenticed with his Uncle Cent who operated the Hague branch of a major Paris art dealership which led him aged 27 to change course. In Begium his earliest paintings were sombre but after moving to Antwerp he met Ruben. He also became interested in Japanese prints which were

becoming fashionable. He joined his brother, Theo, in Paris where he studied with Cormon and met impressionists, Pissaro, Monet and Gauguin. He moved to Arles to experience the light of the area and for a while he and Gauguin shared the Yellow House there. Sadly his mental health, never robust, started to deteriorate and he and Gauguin fell out. After a row Vincent ended up cutting a piece of his own earlobe off and his brother Theo arranged for him to move into a pleasant asylum where he was cared for and able to continue to paint.

In May of 1890, after a couple of years at the asylum, he seemed much better and went to live in Auvers-sur-Oise under the watchful eye of Dr. Gachet. Two months later, he died from what is believed to have been a self-inflicted gunshot wound "for the good of all." During his brief career, he did not experience much success; he sold only one painting, lived in poverty, malnourished and overworked. The money he had was supplied by his brother, Theo, and was used primarily for art supplies, coffee and cigarettes.

Ed. With help from the internet!

Lunch Group – April 21st



Some of the lunch Group enjoying a very reasonable lunch at the Three Stags Pub. Thanks to Colin for organising the outing!



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

Not long until our AGM on the 27th April! We hope that as many members as possible will be there. You should all have received the Agenda and Minutes of the meeting as well as Proposal Forms to print off. Please consider joining our Committee and if you feel that you would enjoy taking up one of the three positions available speak to a member of Committee who will be able to explain something of what it entails. We ask that applications are brought to the meeting on April 13th to be given to Committee who will put them forward at the AGM. On April 27th.

The Committee would like to wish you all a very Happy Easter!

Eliane Davie - Editor



