



September 2025

Chair's Message

Hello Everyone,

I hope you have all had an enjoyable summer break. I have to say that, although I have enjoyed the good weather, I have missed our regular get togethers. I kept my Nordic Walking Group going over the Summer which was just lovely – despite a few gaps as people were away on holiday it was good to keep in touch. I was also grateful to Joan for organising a Lunch Group in August – again it was so nice to see familiar faces.

A few of my Nordic Walking pals went missing for one week attending the North West u3a Summer School, they have been before and always come back full of happy memories. If you haven't yet been I suggest that next year you need to check it out.

But onward we go with a full programme for the Autumn, Pam has organised another broad programme of Speakers and has also kindly taken the reins for a couple of Social meetings as well which means our Thursday meetings until December are sorted – thanks Pam.

It may feel too soon to be thinking about Christmas but unfortunately these things need to be planned early. Over the years our traditional sit-down Christmas lunch has become less and less popular (and for a range of reasons more and more expensive and difficult to arrange) my thanks to Barbara for her continued hard work and commitment making it happen. So, this year we are trying something different – a festive buffet at Trinity with Palm Grove (for details see the end of the newsletter). I hope that you can support us and make it a good Oxton and Prenton u3a event – if not it will be back to the drawing board.

See you all on September 11th for our first meeting I hope, but don't forget that our meeting on 25th September will be our "Bring a Friend" event – the committee and I have been putting up posters to this effect over the Summer and handing out flyers (as I am sure you have!). I like that we are a smaller and friendlier u3a but new members are always welcome.

Looking forward to seeing you all again

Kind Regards

Corinne

u3a Summer School Manchester 2025

Eileen Slater



We started our visit to Manchester Uni with a lovely 'meet and greet with Prosecco' and met some very interesting people. Our fellow learners were not all local and came from as far as London and Exeter.

On the first day we met the tutor Gill Baynes who had put a lot of work into the course – 'Art, a Pot Pourri'. We looked at 175 pictures – which we found a lot to take in at our age!

Fantastic visits to two galleries were included – the Manchester Art Gallery and the Whitworth Gallery. They were completely different from each other. In

the Whitworth we saw amazing, large, narrative-rich pieces by Peruvian artist Santiago Yahuarcani, – and an eye-catching exhibition of elaborate, colourful, art by Roma-Polish artist Malgorzata Mirga-Tas.

The three of us learnt a great deal during our trip. Whilst taking in all this culture we also had quieter moments. We went for walks around the campus and had a great time together. Even though we were packed like sardines on the train home – we would highly recommend Summer School.



Elvis – That's the Way it Was

Barry P Humphreys



For our final speaker before the break Barry P. Humphreys gave us an entertaining presentation about Elvis. He covered the songs, the movies and the stories. He also told us his own story and a history of what was going on in this country at that time. Barry had never met Elvis – but he showed lots of photos of himself meeting people who had met him! Barry had brought his guitar along for the songs and managed to get some of us to join in his singing. Even for those of us who were not Elvis fans he was a fun speaker who kept us interested. Thanks Pam, for a good end to the season.

West Kirby to Meols walk

led by Ken

We had very hot and sunny weather for this seaside walk – starting from West Kirby Station using the path that runs beside the old Municipal golf course to Hoylake. We then walked down Stanley Road beside the Royal Liverpool Golf Course and cut through Beach Road to reach the foreshore path to King’s Gap, where we left the sand and walked along the prom. Some of us peeled off after refreshments at Popsy’s to walk back to Hoylake Station and others went on for lunch at the Railway pub before making their way to Meols station. Mostly traffic free on peaceful pathways, it was a great walk to enjoy chatting in the sunshine.



August Lunch Club with Joan



Art Appreciation

Michael Fenner’s Studio

In July we met up in Callister Gardens in Oxtun for a special visit arranged by Bernadette to the home studio of local artist Michael Fenner. We walked round the corner to Mike’s studio in small timed groups because of space restrictions. It was a tight squeeze in his studio, but we were able to see many of his finished pieces and one still on the easel awaiting completion. He told us how he had previously taught art history, technique, and practice for 30 years and has regularly exhibited. We heard how he is still inspired by other artists to strive to improve his technique, understanding, and insight. It was interesting to be surrounded by Mike’s art and hear him talk personally about his career and his influences, before the next eager group arrived and our time was over.

Speaker Meetings

Arranged by Pam Southall

11 th Sep	Dr. John Heygarth – ‘The Apostle of Sanitation & the Saviour of Chester’	John Walker
9 th Oct	Liverpool’s Historic Pubs	Julie Kershaw
6 th Nov	Bogs, Baths & Basins	David Eveleigh
4 th Dec	The 1903 Daniel Adamson Steamship	Society member
15 th Jan	More Wallpaper, Vicar?	Rowena Beighton-Dykes
12 th Feb	History & Work of the RNLI	Brian Jordan
12 th Mar	Special Investigation inside the Brighton Bombing	Barry Cave
9 th Apr	Solo Walk across Africa	Fran Sandham
7 th May	Peru in the Footsteps of the Incas	Dr. David Mottram
4 th Jun	The Liverpool Tobacco Industry 1642–2007	Robert S. Jones
2 nd Jul	‘Operation Fish’ – the rush to save Britain’s Gold from the Nazis	Bernard Nevin

Tea and Coffee Rota

11 September 2025	Gwyneth Williams Gwyn Thomas
23 September 2025	Karen Little Norah Murray
9 October 2025	Marion Jackson Barbara Riley
23 October 2025	Ann Greenhalgh Norma Finlayson

Would you like to help out and get to know more members? Please contact Joan on 0151 608 6226 or 07568563329

Joan Benton

GROUP NEWS

Proposed New Groups

Near and Far with your Bus Pass!

A series of outings accessible using your Bus Pass.



Day and time of outings will vary depending on destination and what attractions are available, but expect a Day Trip on most occasions. Hopefully we can find suitable destinations for an outing every 4 to 6 weeks.

Sometimes you will need a packed lunch, on other outings we may have a Meal or Coffee and Cakes sampling local cuisine at our destination.

Some walking – say up to 3 miles, will usually be incorporated, mainly urban, but occasionally rural.

We will visit places of Historic or Cultural Interest, have Shopping Opportunities, and much more!

First Outing will be to Ormskirk, where we will explore the Heritage Trail.

For more details, please contact Tony – membership@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Bridge for Beginners



An introduction to Bridge for anyone who wants to play, but hasn't a clue.

All levels catered for
Improvers are also welcome

Meeting in the Cabin at TWPG

alternate Wednesdays, 10am to 12noon.

Extra tuition available on the other Wednesdays.

Minimum of 3 participants required.

Contact Tony - membership@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Art Appreciation – Held in the Session room in TWPG. 3rd Wednesday each month. 10am for 10.15 start. Also Gallery visits. Contact Bernadette – <mailto:art@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

Natter and Read

Meets at 10.30. – 12.00. in Wallasey at Joyce Woosley's home near Wallasey Town Hall on Thursday following the first u3a meeting in the month. Spaces available. All books are provided by the Library Service.

Contact Joyce: <mailto:book2@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

Lunch Group

Our lunch group hosted by Joan Benton is held monthly at the Refreshment Rooms. Numbers are limited so watch out at TWPG meetings for the sign up sheet. It is held on the third Wednesday in the month at 12:45 for 1:00pm.

Nordic Walking

Come and join Corinne's Nordic Walking Group every Tuesday at 10.00 am at Birkenhead Park visitor centre. We walk for an hour then have refreshments at the café. All year round.

Bridge Group and Rummikub

Bill Nock is the leader with Tony on hand to teach bridge to new members. Meets in the cabin at TWPG fortnightly on Wed. at 10.00am

Walking Group

Usually 3rd Friday in month. <mailto:walks@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

Information and Sign-up sheet available in meetings.

Book Group 1

Meets in Oxton at Val Edward's house on the second Tuesday in the month. Full at the moment. Contact: book1@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Craft Group

The meeting is on the last Monday of the month. 2.00 – 4.00. At Joan Benton's house. Full at the moment, but names can be added to a reserve list. Contact: craft@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Play Reading

2nd Tuesday monthly usually. Held at Eliane Davie's house. Full at the moment. Reading 'Breezblock Park' by Willy Russell. Meeting: 10.00am – 12.30.

Contact Eliane: <mailto:playreading@oxtonu3a.co.uk>



Important Notice

Date – Thursday 18th December

Buffet – £10 per person payable in advance

The latest payment day/booking Thursday 4th December

Soft drinks, tea and coffee provided but BYOB if you wish.

Raffle prizes – donations welcome (as last year)

Barbara Winstanley will manage bookings at our Thursday meetings.

Thursday 18th December is our last meeting before Christmas, we are intending to serve home-made mince pies with tea and coffee (as last year). There will be a short Christmas themed quiz followed by carol singing led by Steve Cottam. Everyone is welcome to attend but only those who have signed up and paid will be able to stay on for the buffet at the end of the meeting

And finally...

Eric Midwinter OBE

was an English author, broadcaster and academic, a social policy analyst, a historian of the sport of cricket and an expert on British comedy.

More importantly to us he was co-founder of the u3a. He died on 8 August 2025, at the age of 93.

Thanks to Corinne for photographs and Eileen for the Summer School report. If you have photos, reports, or comments regarding groups you lead or ones you have attended, or anything connected to our u3a, please send them to me for inclusion.

<mailto:newsletter@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

Kathy