



October 2025

PLEASE NOTE - TWPG have the funeral of a longstanding member of the church community at 12.30 on Thursday 9th October (our next full meeting) and they have asked that we clear from the hall and car park at 11.45. In order to do so, and still have our usual meeting, we will be opening to members at 9.45 and aim to start closing at 11.30.

Your understanding and cooperation will be much appreciated

Chair's Message

Hello Everyone

It was SO lovely to see so many of you at the "start of term" on 11th September - which, in my opinion, started us off with a bit of a bang! A fascinating talk from John Walker kept us all enthralled, and the Speaker programme for the next year looks equally interesting, so I think a "well done" to Pam Southall is very much in order.

Perhaps I should, in fairness, add a "well done" to the rest of the committee, whose hard work and commitment keeps us all going. They all do a lot of work in the background, sometimes unrecognised - it's not only cosy chats over sandwiches at committee meetings!

But it's you, the members, that make Oxton and Prenton u3a. I remember very clearly my first meeting, I had such a warm and welcoming reception and it, frankly, opened up a whole new world of new friends and new experiences! We all take what we want from our u3a membership and, hopefully, give back as best we can. I understand that not everyone is comfortable taking a lead role but smaller things like helping out with tea and coffee at our Thursday meetings not only make for a smooth running but help you to make friends. (See Joan Benton if you think you can help).

We have a pretty full programme up until Christmas and as you know we are trying something slightly different as a Christmas celebration this year. Your feedback on this will be very welcome as the change came about as fewer and fewer members seemed to want a sit-down lunch - which was also becoming more and more expensive. But we aim to please.

My thanks to all of you for making Oxton and Prenton u3a an organisation of which I am proud to be a part.

Corinne - Chair

Dr. John Haygarth – ‘The Apostle of Sanitation & the Saviour of Chester’ Speaker – John Walker



Our first speaker of the season John Walker gave a talk about the physician Dr. John Haygarth (1740 – 1827). He was an 18th-century scholar and polymath who discovered new ways to prevent the spread of fever among patients and reduce the mortality rate of smallpox. Many of his contemporaries believed that smallpox could be spread through the air via long distances. He deduced that it was through contact with people and he came up with a set of simple rules to prevent the spread of the disease. He served as physician to Chester Infirmary from 1766 for 30 years and became known as one of the best

physicians of his time.

He retired to Bath in 1798 and continued his research including the first real demonstration of the placebo effect, before dying at Lambridge House near Bath in 1827.

Our speaker kept us engaged with this interesting subject, and comments online ranged from ‘a great start to the year’, ‘excellent speaker’, and ‘interesting and informative’.

Rock Park Walk and Talk

Su Thompson



On a very windy day we met and finished (with lunch) at The Refreshment Rooms in Rock Ferry. We had a walk around Rock Park conservation area on the banks of the River Mersey. Our guide was Su, an extremely knowledgeable and hospitable local resident. Starting with

the river she highlighted the area’s social history and significance. Different merchant owners, builders and architects led to a striking amount of architectural diversity, and we got a closer inspection of one house and garden in particular. Thanks to Su it was certainly a walk with a difference.





In September we met up at the Williamson Gallery for a special guided talk arranged by Bernadette and led by Josh Mackarell, the collections manager. We were shown round two exhibitions exploring the works of Albert Richards and Philip Wilson Steer.

Richards (b.1919 Liverpool) attended Wallasey School of Art and was the youngest war artist to be killed in action during WWII. The works show the incredible talent that Richards possessed, and his influences, from surrealism to Art Deco.

Philip Wilson Steer (b.1860 Birkenhead) was a pioneer of impressionism in Britain. After studying in Paris, he was originally ridiculed for his art, but he eventually gained acclaim and prestige with his work and held a teaching post at the Slade School of Art.

In a very interesting talk Josh told us about the lives of each artist and the stories behind the art on display.



Autumn programme

Wednesday 15th October: Lady Lever Art Gallery:

"Conservation on View"

A rare opportunity to see conservation work in action.

Wednesday 19th November: Session Room in Trinity with Palm Grove:

Caravaggio – "Mad, Bad and Dangerous to know"

Talk by Bernadette Hamilton

Wednesday 17th December: Session Room in Trinity with Palm Grove:

"Season's Greetings" – Christmas Cards showing great works of art

Talk by Bernadette Hamilton

Tea and Coffee Rota

9 October 2025	Marion Jackson Barbara Riley
23 October 2025	Ann Greenhalgh Norma Finlayson
6 November 2025	Sylvia Hunt Joan Beedles
20 November 2025	Ellen Wilson Dorothy Matthews
4 December 2025	Hilary Robinson Maureen Oldham
18 December 2025	Greig Roberts John Roberts
8 January 2026	Mary Hamilton Eileen Slater
22 January 2026	Barbara Baker Kathy Sullivan
5 February 2026	Karen Little Norah Murray
19 February 2026	Marion Jackson Barbara Riley

Would you like to help out and meet more members?

Please contact Joan Benton on 0151 608 6226 or 07568563329

Mary's Meals



We welcomed Sue Donovan from Mary's Meals to our meeting on Thursday 25th September and she gave a fascinating talk on the history and the work of the Mary's Meals charity. Members were their usual generous selves and happily dropped cash into the donations bucket on the way out. But Sue also told us of another way to donate - apparently the charity can get cash for unused currency and redundant English coins. We agreed to have a donation point at the next few meetings so that those of us with old coins lying about the house can bring them in so that they can be put to good use.

She also left two books about the charity which we intend sharing via our book swap table.

Speaker Meetings

Arranged by Pam Southall

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

GROUP NEWS

New groups – see notice board at meetings

Near and Far with your Bus Pass. A series of outings by bus or train

Beginners Bridge Minimum of 3 participants required.

Art Appreciation – Held in the Session room in TWPG. 3rd Wednesday each month. 10am for 10.15 start. Also Gallery visits – see Autumn Programme.
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 signup 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>

Date – Thursday 18th December

Christmas 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. 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

Please note the next newsletter will be the December edition.

Thanks to Corinne for photographs and Mary's meals report and to Steve Cottam for proofreading. 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