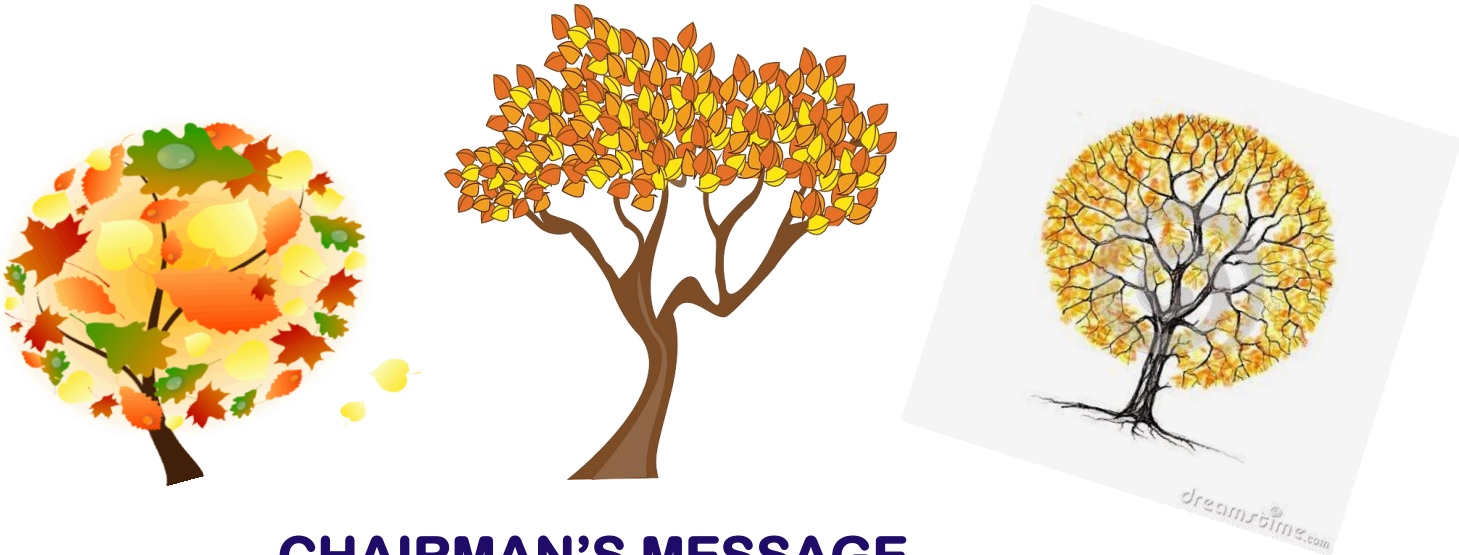




MONTHLY NEWSLETTER SEPTEMBER 2015



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I hope that you have all had a really good Summer break and are now ready for an exciting new year at Oxton & Prenton U3A, there is a lot to look forward to. Our speaker secretary has a fantastic programme of speakers, starting in September with the ever popular Ken Pye talking about the 'Dockers Umbrella', which I am sure many of you will remember with affection. There are close to 30 interest groups for you to choose from, with the new Life Writing Course led by Mo Kermode starting in September. The events team have been working hard planning trips out, including a backstage visit to the Everyman, a performance by the English National Ballet and of course the ever popular Annual Christmas Dinner which will be back at the Ladies Golf Club again this year.

So as our motto says 'Don't Wait – Participate!' and make the most of all the opportunities provided by your U3A. See you all on 27th August when you can come and give those little grey cells a workout at the quiz.

Colin Burkitt

TREASURER

As many of you will know Mike Benton, our treasurer, has been in hospital seriously ill for a number of weeks. He is at long last out of hospital and at home, and seems to be making good progress. In the interim Ken Jackson has offered to look after the treasurer's responsibilities and we are extremely grateful to Ken for his gracious offer. Ken has been co-opted to the committee and will continue to support Mike through to the end of the year. We look forward to seeing Mike, and Joan, back at U3A in the Autumn.

SOCIAL OUTINGS

NOW BOOKING

Tuesday 6th October 2015 Guided Tour of Liverpool Everyman Theatre
Followed by optional lunch. Tour £5-00

NOW BOOKING

Thursday 19th November 2015 Le Corsaire – English National Ballet at Liverpool Empire
Matinee 2-30 pm Tickets £21-00
Booking closes 27th August 2015

Friday 18th December 2015 Christmas Lunch at Wirral Ladies Golf Club

Full booking details available at meetings please see your social organisers at the back of the hall
OR e-mail barbara@oxtonu3a.co.uk

MEETINGS and SPEAKERS

Thursday 27th August 2015 Welcome Back Social Morning & Quiz

Thursday 10th September 2015 Ken Pye – The Dockers Umbrella

Thursday 24th September 2015 Musical Social Morning

WHERE'S GRANDMA?

The computer swallowed Grandma, yes, honestly it's true!
She pressed 'Control' and 'Enter' and disappeared from view.
It devoured her completely; the thought just makes me squirm.
She must have caught a virus or been eaten by a worm.
I've searched through the recycle bin and files of every kind;
I've even used the Internet, but nothing did I find.
In desperation, I asked Mr. Google my searches to refine.
The reply from him was negative, not a thing was found 'online'.
So, if inside your Inbox, my Grandma you should see,
Please 'Copy', 'Scan' and 'Paste' her, and send her back to me.



WALKS



FRIDAY 28TH AUGUST 2015

A walk just over the border in North Wales, it is about 6 miles in length through some beautiful countryside with good views if we get good weather. This walk is a bit more strenuous than some of our Wirral walks because it is hillier in parts and there are about 12 stiles some of which are quite demanding, particularly if you have short legs like me. Despite all that the walk is very rewarding and if you are going on the walking weekend to Ironbridge it will make a good introduction to the type of walking we will experience there. Also at the end of the walk is an excellent pub with good food and beer/wine. We will walk mainly on paths, some gravel, some un-surfaced, with a little bit of walking on quiet lanes.

Meet at the church at 10-00 am to sort out car share for the journey to the start/finish. The drive to the start of the walk will take about 45 minutes, I will arrange coffee and toilet facilities plus parking with the pub and lunch on our return from the walk around 2-00 pm.

I have 20 members already signed up for the walk but if you have not already signed up you can do so at our meeting on the 27th August or email me direct on carol.colin@talktalk.net

Walk Leader – Colin Burkitt (0743 4284666)

AUTUMN SEASON WALKS

To date I have not received any offers from members to lead a walk during the Autumn. If you would like to lead a walk on Friday, 18th September, 16th October or 21st November please get in touch with me. In December we will have our normal pre Christmas walk & lunch which this year will be held at our house. More information closer to the date.

As normal all walks are available to sign up to at our Thursday meetings, or if you cannot get to the meeting contact me by email.

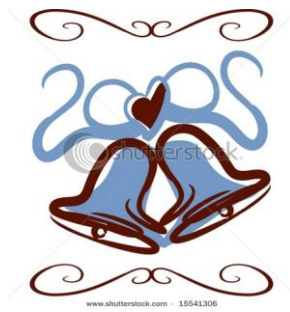
Colin Burkitt

IMPORTANT UPDATE ABOUT THE WALKING WEEKEND – 4th to 7th SEPTEMBER

Everyone who has booked for this weekend should now have received detailed information pack from me about it. I have spoken to the hotel to finalise details. They are expecting us to arrive at 1pm on the Friday for the first walk. We cannot check in until after the walk but can leave our cars in the car park, please let reception know your vehicle registration number on arrival. You will be able to check in after the first walk, the hotel will take a swipe of your credit card at check in so you can charge items to your bill during your stay. I will confirm all other hotel and walk arrangements when we meet.

Details of how to find the hotel in Ironbridge are in your information pack as well as some tips about the route from home to Ironbridge.

Finally if you have not already given me the contact details that I need for the safety file please do so ASAP. All we need now is good weather!!



Congratulations to two of our members



Our very best wishes to Rowan & Peter, wishing you both a lifetime of love and happiness.

Which reminds me

Do you remember your Wedding Day?

At the Williamson Art Gallery, Heswall U3A members are going to display a selection of their wedding dresses. There will be a temporary exhibition running from mid October to 20th December. At present 11 dresses have been collected from members ranging from 1920s to 1990s with one exception - the 1940s (war years!!); Also exhibited will be photographs of members in their dresses and some interesting background information. The gallery may also be able to add some extra material such as photographs of local churches

BOAT TRIP ON LAKE WINDERMERE

A glorious Friday morning in early July greeted all the early arrivals at Trinity with Palm Grove, for our trip to the Lake District.

A very smooth coach ride brought us to Lakeside an hour prior to our boat departure. We embarked along with a good crowd of fellow tourists for our two -hour journey to Ambleside via Bowness. The scenery and setting were quite stunning and the Captain fed us interesting nuggets of information at regular intervals.

We observed the one - minute silence at noon in honour of the victims of the Tunisian massacre.

Just prior to our arrival, we had a moment of excitement when a rumour that a Bashir Assad look alike was on board. This caused firstly two RAF jets to buzz our boat, followed at an interval by a third one. As the rumour turned out to be a false one, we were duly allowed to land and board our coach for a 4 mile ride to The Wild Boar where we enjoyed a delightful lunch. We returned home slowing down to drop off two of our members at Maghull! A most enjoyable day. Many thanks to Barbara for her excellent organisation.



Monica and Patrick Toosey

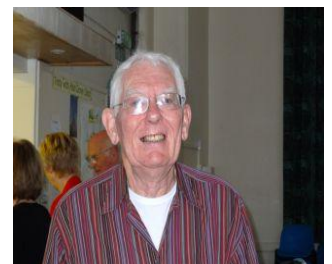


GOOD NEWS FROM MIKE BENTON



I finally left Arrowe Park Hospital after five weeks and am pleased to say that I am on the way to recovery. It was a tough road, but it did help that U3A were there to support me. I thank you for all of your cards and good wishes. I look forward to seeing you in September.

I have missed you all.....Mike



Last month I included the report on our visit to Tatton Park, but inadvertently I only printed part of the story about the wonderful incident with Joan & Lilian and their mobility scooters. So with fulsome apologies I reprint it below in full and that gives me a good excuse to include those brilliant photographs again.....Editor

A Sight to Remember in Tatton Park (2)

Barbara had this amusing incident and has called it ---- A Sight to Remember in Tatton Park---

I have organised many and varied outings for our U3A but at Tatton I experienced a moment which will happily stay with me forever.

Joan Parfect & Lilian Evans astride mobility scooters, having the time of their lives.

I was confronted, when approaching them, by a slightly outraged Lilian "She (Joan) Lilian informed me "Has a display showing M.P.H "whilst I "(Lilian)"have pictures"! The pictures in question were of a tortoise and a hare. Self-explanatory you would think. Lilian then proudly informed me with her usual giggle "I pressed the Hare button and nearly took off!"

Later in the day I ventured to speak to a lady on a scooter who was not one of our members. I just had to know what her display showed. It was a tortoise and hare but she informed me that you are instructed to be wary when pressing the hare.

What does it say about my character that this, illogically, made me even prouder of Lilian?

After all surely in our advanced years, like the children we once were, we do not see the need to abide by somebody else's rules!



New Group Starting in September

We all have stories to tell. Sad ones, funny ones, exciting ones, romantic ones

and, of course excruciatingly embarrassing ones! So how about writing some of them down for posterity – or even for yourself?

Mo Kermode is starting a Life Writing Course in September

The Group will meet in **The Cabin** on the **Second Tuesday** of the month Time: 1:30 to 3:30

There is a signup sheet on the Groups table at the back of the hall

Gas, Galaxies and Gut Reactions

The Wonderful World of Science

Lectures to entertain, challenge, and inform on Thursday 8th October 2015 9.30 am – 5.00 pm

Heswall Hall, Telegraph Road, Heswall. CH60 0AF

Admission per lecture £1.00

(Heswall U3A members free on production of membership card)

For further details contact Dr. Keith Foggin on 0151 625 4201 or keith.foggin@live.co.uk

Organised by the Rotary Clubs of West Wirral & Mid Wirral for the Heswall Arts Festival.

Sponsored by Heswall U3

Simple refreshments available

PROGRAMME

09.30 Extracting Gas with Extreme Pressures and Underground Fires

Prof. Denis Hall

Professor of Photonics in the Institute of Photonics and Quantum Science

Heriot Watt University, Edinburgh.

11.00 Things that go Bang in the Night Prof. Andy Newsam

Professor of Astronomy Education and Engagement

Liverpool John Moores University

LUNCH

13.30 Elucidating the Mysteries of the Universe through Gardening

Prof. Mike Bode

Professor of Astrophysics and Director of the Astrophysics Research Institute

Liverpool John Moores University

15.00 How the Senses don't make Sense: The Multisensory World of Perception

Prof. Francis McGlone

Professor in Neuroscience in the School of Natural Sciences and Psychology

Director of the Research Centre for Brain and Behaviour

Liverpool John Moores University

MOOCS—Online Courses

As a U3A member at Heswall I am busy with a variety of Interest Groups on offer locally. However, I have also discovered free MOOCS or Massive Open Online Courses. Following Future Learn courses I have studied 'Start Writing Fiction' presented by Open University, 'Shale Gas & Fracking' presented by University of Nottingham and 'What is a Mind?' from University of Cape Town. Courses last between 3 and 6 weeks, but you can take longer if U3A gets in the way. All three have been subjects that piqued my interest for a variety of reasons, and once started I was hooked. The courses are presented by University experts in their fields in very accessible ways, all you need is an internet connection and a few hours a week at a time that's convenient to you. You become familiar with other students as you exchange ideas with them, submit work for their comments and comment on their work. It's fascinating to chat with people from all over the world, many of whom have an amazing grasp of English.

I feel courses such as these are a real luxury for retirees like myself, though of course they are followed by students of all different ages. We should all be embracing them to keep our brain cells active and alert! The courses I've followed were absorbing, thought provoking and bring a new verve into conversations with friends. I know there are other providers out there, and perhaps I should be investigating those too. The world seems so much smaller when you're interacting with someone from India or South America, and all things seem possible.

Margaret (Heswall U3A)

AND FINALLY.....

There is a very special lady who has been a member of our Group since its inception, who is celebrating a very special birthday. She is an inspiration to us all proving that age is no barrier to intelligence, humour, good looks, stamina etc etc etc and I could not miss the opportunity to say to her :



**HAPPY BIRTHDAY
JUTTA AND THANK
YOU FOR ALL YOUR
ENCOURAGEMENT
AND SUPPORT AND
FOR ALL YOU DO
FOR OXTON &
PRENTON U3A.
CHEERS !!!!!!!!!!!**

