



## **NEWSLETTER**

## **JANUARY 2017**



### **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

***A Very Happy and Prosperous New Year to you all.*** Hopefully by the time that you are reading this you will have had a really good break over the festive season and be eagerly looking forward to a new programme of activities in your U3A.

I want to take this opportunity to remind you about the ethos of the U3A organisation:-

The U3A is a self-help organisation for people no longer in full time employment providing educational, creative and leisure opportunities in a friendly environment. It consists of over one thousand U3A's all over the UK, which are charities in their own right and are run entirely by volunteers. U3A's are learning cooperatives which draw upon the knowledge, experience and skills of their own members to organise and provide activities in accordance with the wishes of the membership. There are no customers, we are all members.

I want to remind you of the U3A ethos at this time because we are approaching a period of change at our U3A. At our AGM in April I will have served my term of office as Chairman and will have to stand down from the committee. There may be other vacancies on the committee at this time as long serving members choose to stand down. The future of our U3A relies on members stepping up to the plate and bringing their expertise to the committee. At our stage of life everybody has valuable experience and expertise to offer.

So, please, in the next few weeks, when the AGM documents are circulated, please consider carefully how you could help our U3A grow and prosper, to continue bringing enjoyment and friendship to its members. Believe me it is a very fulfilling opportunity and you will not regret it.

Colin Burkitt

Chairman

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# YOU HAVE ONE LAST CHANCE TO PAY YOUR SUBS FOR THIS YEAR AT OUR NEXT MEETING ON THURSDAY 5th JANUARY 2017

If you have not paid your subscription by this date you will not be able to attend any meetings, groups or events as you will no longer be covered by U3A insurance.

Proof of Membership (i.e. PINK COLOURED 2016/17 membership card) may be asked for when attending meetings, groups or events.

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## LUNCH CIRCLE

The next meeting is on Tuesday January 17<sup>th</sup> 12-00 for 12-30

THE REFRESHMENT ROOMS

NEW FERRY



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## SOCIAL OUTINGS

Full booking details available at meetings, please see your social organisers at the back of the hall OR e-mail [barbara@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:barbara@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

### EVENTS

#### REMINDERS:

Tuesday 10<sup>th</sup> January 2017      Heritage Tour at the Royal Court Theatre  
2-00 pm start and it lasts 1 ½ hours £5-00  
FULL- RESERVE LIST ONLY

**PLEASE ALSO REMEMBER THERE WILL BE REPLACEMENT BUSES BECAUSE OF NO RAIL SERVICES SO PLEASE ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOR YOUR JOURNEY**

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> February 2017      Meet 10-15 a.m Bus Stop Liverpool t.b.a.  
1.Morning Tour of Princes Road Synagogue Liverpool      £7-00  
2.Optional Lunch at Anglican Cathedral      £10-00  
3.Afternoon Tour of Anglican Cathedral      £3-00

**IMPORTANT !!! To those lunching at The Cathedral payment of £10-00 is now due please**

BOOKING MUST CLOSE 17TH January 2017

### THEATRE

Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> March 2017      CYRANO  
Liverpool Playhouse 7.30 pm

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## **MEETINGS and SPEAKERS**

5<sup>th</sup> January 2017 - 'Do you know what this is?' Quiz

19<sup>th</sup> January 2017 – 'Moros Christians: A Spanish Celebration of Two Disparate Cultures'

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### **BRIAN'S THOUGHTS on JANUARY 2017**

It is not easy to be entirely happy about January. It does in fact bring us one month nearer to spring and of course it is the means by which we start a whole new year. But for many it can be full of grim uncertainties. Traditionally it was the time to sit by the fire and share our hopes and fears for the future and swap stories. But now the fires are mostly gone and somehow I find a radiator a little less accommodating. Now I know that fires were messy pollutants and made a lot of work and one could be virtually roasting in the heat on one side whilst freezing on the other, due to the icy blasts coming through ill-fitting doors and windows, which always managed to rattle; even so there was usually a toasting fork close by and one could toast bread and crumpets and struggle with chestnuts, some of which would be burned whilst others were nearly raw and needed more time and the toast seldom browned evenly. It was all very messy but it gave us something on which to focus in this difficult month. Central heating has done away with the cheerful dance of a living fire and the only live flame available for us to enjoy now is the pilot light in the boiler – if you know where to look.

The problem with January lies to some extent in the fact that we keep wanting something better and looking forward to a warmer future when really it is an excellent time for study and creativity, for reading, reflexion and contemplation and for writing down ones thoughts. It is a very good time for being involved in U3A activities and even starting a new group; always providing the weather allows us to get out, and if not, we can always do some homework. The very nature of the month urges us to become more contained, though not necessarily in isolation. Whilst the energy of summer tends to be expansive and we are out and about, that of winter can bring us closer together. It seems appropriate to be in a group.

I can thoroughly recommend having a blank book close to hand in which to write thoughts, ideas and more importantly, dreams; not, I hasten to add, with notions of publication or sharing its contents with others, but simply to enter into an inner dialogue and to become more real to oneself. We all have a rich inner life but it is largely lost to the air. We give it all away, but more importantly it is lost to ourselves and this is a shame. Of course we have other aspects that seldom, if ever, get a hearing. Through fear, shame or ignorance they remain mute. Do we not need to take ourselves more seriously? Creating such a focus of attention within oneself offers the prospect of stability at a time when the external world is full of uncertainties. This is reflected of course in the unstable weather that January affords us. Another advantage of a 'Thoughts Book' is that once a thought has been written down and you know where you can find it, you do not have to keep thinking it. This is worth trying in the night when a busy mind denies sleep. It is worth while waking up properly and writing down the main points carefully. One is then free to sleep – providing one has not consumed too many stimulants in the day. January also happens to be a good month for partial hibernation.

In this month one needs a warm, snug home to come home to but there is a limit to how happy we can be there if at the same time we fail to come home to ourselves.

So whatever the weather, let us all enjoy a truly reflective, thoughtful and meaningful month.

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## **WALKING GROUP**

**Friday 20th January 2017. Meet at Port Sunlight station at 10:15 am**

A walk of 5.5 miles starting at **Port Sunlight station** and finishing at **Rock Ferry station** for transport home or back to your car. The walk takes us down the old railway track bed under the A41 and into Bromborough pool area. We then walk via Bromborough Pool village, past the Village hotel, where we could have a toilet stop, if required, then on to Port Sunlight River park, where there is an option to walk up 30 metres to the top of the old tip via well made paths to get great views of the Mersey and Liverpool. Alternatively take a low level path via waterfront. From here we go via the location of old New Ferry and along the Rock park esplanade to the location of old Rock Ferry and the Refreshment Room where we will have lunch.

After lunch there is a short walk of about 3/4 mile to Rock Ferry station. Most of the walking is on well made paths and quiet roads, although it is necessary to walk for half mile or so along the A41 and a short grassed area, which may be quite wet, depending on rainfall.

I suggest that you drive to Port Sunlight and park there then get train back later. If you want to go via train note that the train will be from Birkenhead Central (No trains from Liverpool or Hamilton Square because of the new track laying programme).

There are trains from Birkenhead Central at 09:43 and 09:58 arriving 09:52 and 10:07 respectively, although due to the disruption this may have changed so check on the day if possible. Sign up on list at the back of the church hall.

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## **XMAS WALK 2016**

***A HUGE THANK YOU TO COLIN & CAROL FOR THEIR HOSPITALITY***



**ANOTHER EXCELLENT DAY**

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## TEA ROTA FOR DECEMBER 2016- JANUARY 2017

5 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Chris Lakin	Sandy Anderson	Mary Potter
19 <sup>th</sup> January 2017	Greig Roberts	John Roberts	Judith Wheat
2 <sup>nd</sup> February 2017	Barbara Baker	Kathy Sullivan	Arlene Hunton
16 <sup>th</sup> February 2017	Gwen Burrell	Jean Sheratt	Kate Walton

Please ring (Joan Benton) on 608 6226 if you are unable to do a duty

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## U3A SHORT COURSE - A HISTORY OF CARTOONS

HESWALL HALL

This is a series of 3 x 2 hour lectures to be given by Ian Barclay,

16th February 2017 10.00am – 12noon

2nd March 2017 10.00am – 12noon

16th March 2017 10.00am – 12noon

£10 for the 3 sessions.

The first session deals with Art, Drawing, Cartoon Creation, and the Early History of Cartoons.

The second session covers Modern Day Cartoons and the Influence of Cartoons.

The third session focuses on Commerce & Communication and The Best of The Breed.

For further information or booking please contact Tricia Harrison at ;  
[tricia.m.harrison@btinternet.com](mailto:tricia.m.harrison@btinternet.com) or 334 6085

***This course is open to all current U3A Members***

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## XMAS LUNCH 2016

***Thank you so very much  
Barbara & Barbara***

***Two superstars***





***HAPPY NEW YEAR  
TO ALL OUR MEMBERS***

