



## **JUNE 2017 NEWSLETTER**

### **CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

Many of our newer members may not be aware that, although we are one of the smaller U3A's, we do have over 20 special interest groups, which are open to all of our members. Anyone wanting further information about these groups should have a chat to Corinne, our Groups Co-ordinator, who stands by the notice boards at our Thursday morning meetings. Our website [www.oxtonu3a.co.uk](http://www.oxtonu3a.co.uk) also has full details of all our groups.

Not only that Corinne and Eve have organised a special showcase morning for our Groups. It will be held at our meeting on 22<sup>nd</sup> June and Group Leaders will be in attendance for you to have a chat with them and hopefully encourage you to join whichever group is of interest to you. Come along give them your support and see what there is on offer.

Joining a group is a sure fire way of meeting and making new friends, learning new skills and keeping your brain active. Why not join one ?

Sandra Lakin  
Chairman

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### ***LETTER TO THE U3A FROM COLIN***

I have been overwhelmed by the kind comments that so many of you have made following the A.G.M. I have had three very rewarding years as your Chairman and although have now stood down from the committee I look forward to being closely involved with all sorts of activities in the future. Carol and I will continue to support your new Chairman and committee in any way that we can. We consider ourselves to have made so many genuine friends at Oxton & Prenton U3A.

Kind regards to you all, Carol and Colin Burkitt

Many thanks,

Colin

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**BRIAN GILL'S THOUGHTS ON THE RECENT TALK ON THE LONGBOW**

Butt of the joke.  
Brace yourself.  
Second string.  
Rule of thumb.  
Highly strung.  
Spare string to your bow.  
Keep it under your hat.  
Playing fast and loose.  
Keep tabs on.  
Cock up.  
Shoot your bolt.  
Pick a quarrel.  
Bolt from the blue.

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**LUNCH CIRCLE**

Lunch will be at PESTO Dibbinsdale Hotel Bromborough

Tuesday June 21<sup>st</sup> 12.15 for 12.30pm



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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 NOW BOOKING**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**'THE FLOATING GRACE' – OUR SUMMER CRUISE**

Departs Salthouse Docks at 1-00 pm and ends at 3-30 pm  
Cruise through all 8 historic Liverpool Docks aboard Liverpool's only floating restaurant, whilst enjoying a 2 course meal.

Food choices now required.

Reserve list only £25

**PLEASE BOOK ASAP TO ENSURE THIS CRUISE GOES AHEAD**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017

**NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM**

Cancelled due to insufficient numbers. Any monies paid will be refunded.

**SPECIAL EVENT**

Friday 13<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**Our U3A 10<sup>th</sup> Birthday Celebration Lunch £20-00 per person**  
**Prenton Golf Club 12.00 for 12.30pm**

**Smart dress please**

**Hot and cold buffet**

**Short reminiscences**

**After dinner speaker**

## **THEATRE**

Thursday 29 <sup>th</sup> June 2017	THE RED SHOES – Latest Matthew Bourne production Liverpool Empire at 2-30 pm <b>Booking closed collect your tickets and meet at theatre</b>
Thursday 26 <sup>th</sup> October 2017	NEW ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET AKRAM KHAN'S GISELLE Liverpool Empire at 2-00 pm Tickets £11-50
Wednesday 29 <sup>th</sup> Nov 2017	WARHORSE at Liverpool Empire at 2-30 pm Tickets £45-50 (best price available) <b>Booking closed</b>

**IMPORTANT NOTICE**  
**No bookings or reservations can be taken without payment.**  
**This is necessary in order to be fair to all our members**

Full booking details available@ meetings. See your social organizers.

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## **MEETINGS and SPEAKERS**

Thursday 8 <sup>th</sup> June -	The Origins of Nursery Rhymes - Jean Finney
Thursday 22 <sup>nd</sup> July -	Group's Showcase
Thursday 6 <sup>th</sup> July -	Poison is a Woman's Weapon - Angela Brabin
Thursday 20 <sup>th</sup> July -	Wirral Street Pastors - Mark Latham
Thursday 14 <sup>th</sup> September -	Grand narratives and... - Mary Clinton
Thursday 28 <sup>th</sup> September -	Hilbre Island - Mike Bird

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## **VISIT TO LYME PARK**

What I most appreciated about our recent visit to Lyme Park was the freedom to enjoy it at our leisure. The order and pace at which we explored the many and various treats on offer was left to each individual. There was a much valued sense of time and space, with little need for queuing or crowding.

The house itself offered a fund of information, displayed clearly in every room, with attendants standing by to help if needed. Though a grand house, its proportions were such that, for all its size, richness of architectural detail, tapestries and paintings, one could feel at home there. In fact we were invited to make ourselves comfortable in the beautiful and well upholstered library. I could easily have moved in at that point.

From every window there were views of the magnificent and extensive park which some of our more intrepid members took to exploring on an extended walk.

There were a number of activities available to the more energetic, including bowls and dressing in period costume. Ushka, Monica's guide dog, followed Mr Darcey's now famous example and jumped in the lake to cool down. Fortunately there were still a couple of hours to go before we were due to depart but after a second dowsing it seemed better to remove her from temptation. Alas she then found and fully explored a stream and was still a bit damp when we finally headed home.

Ushka, Monica and myself all feel that Lyme Park needs further investigation and we are very glad and grateful to Barbara for facilitating the introduction. It was a truly enjoyable event, an opinion endorsed by everyone I talked to.

Brian.

### *LYME PARK MAY 22nd*



Walking Group at  
The Cage



Costume Collection



Linda, Joan and Bernadette dressing up at Lyme Park

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## **TEA & COFFEE ROTA JUNE 2017**

8 <sup>TH</sup> June 2017	Rita Lillie - Nora Murray
22 <sup>nd</sup> June 2017	Barbara Riley - Gerry Riley - Marion Jackson
6 <sup>th</sup> July 2017	Sue Berry - Margaret Cullen - Paul Cullen

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

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### **BRIAN'S MUSINGS**

June can be a strange sort of month. Though it is often referred to as 'flaming June' it can be anything but. How many times over the years have we experienced a summer solstice in which it is actually possible to see the sun rise? Only quite recently have I given up on expecting anything from the weather that might be indicative of High Summer. To add insult to injury, when what we are obliged to call summer is barely established the days from that moment onwards start to get progressively shorter and this year, for added meaning and texture, we have added burden of a general election; upon which I will refrain from commenting.

However all is not lost. Picnics, fairs and outings in general might not always be able to go ahead as planned and I do not doubt that this, in the end, can have a deleterious effect on the human psyche but it does not necessarily have to. With just one month off in which to draw breath the U3A will continue to offer interest and support whatever the weather or season. There is a great deal to be said for creating ones own entertainment. I am constantly grateful for the effort and creativity that people are prepared to give to ensuring that we continue to have good and innovative reasons to keep coming together.

The Oxton Society is a case in point. I find shuffling around the secret gardens a bit of a trial but will spend many a happy hour at 'The Hub': a delightful setting in which to look and listen, drink tea and go back for yet another delicious scone. And have you noticed that any item bought at the plant stall has a better chance of surviving than anything you might buy at a garden centre? There one pays a considerable amount for something that has been reared in conditions we could never emulate in a conventional garden. Small wonder that they start to deteriorate as soon as one gets them home. Those acquired at the plant stall are all local and for the most part, grown in conditions similar to each and they are all doing well.

I suppose many of us like to think that we have an exotic side but such personas can be very high maintenance and may well fail in the end. I often remind clients, when in therapy, that the hardest thing to be is 'ordinary', (whatever that is,) and yet it can be the most rewarding of all states to establish. At least a degree of 'normality' needs to be cultivated before anything more original has a chance of thriving. Of course having only lived here for seven years the time may well come when it all feels too familiar but at the moment such a time is difficult to imagine in an ecology that seems to offer endless possibilities for growth and exploration.

Brian Gill

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## **WALKING GROUP JUNE 16TH**

Gerry's phone number on the day is 07751 807007 and email is [gerry@riley1.me.uk](mailto:gerry@riley1.me.uk).

### **FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> JUNE – SOUTH LIVERPOOL**

Gerry will lead a walk of 6.5 miles starting at **Garston Coastal Reserve** and finishing at **Hale Village** where we will have lunch in the **Childe of Hale Pub** at around 2pm. The walk takes us along the Mersey way and is flat all the way. We will make a stop of around 20 minutes for coffee and toilets at Speke hall around 11:45 am. We will be going in from the airport side so there will be no cost of entry. The walk is on stone tracks and across fields and minor roads. There may be some mud but at that time of year it should not be a significant problem. We will catch the 82A bus from Hale back to Liverpool One bus station. Buses are every 35 minutes. Note if you only have a Merseyside concessionary travel pass then there will be a fare to pay as Hale is outside the Merseyside boundary.

**Meet at Liverpool One bus station as close as possible to 10:00** to catch the **10:21** 80A bus to Garston.

**Note Merseyrail will be going through phase 3 of its track renewal and there** will be no trains beyond Birkenhead Central or Birkenhead North stations, but replacement buses will be in operation. Please ensure to allow extra journey time. Suggest if possible to get one of the direct Liverpool buses such as 420, 423, 432/3, 437 464 or 471/2 that are very frequent and avoid the change from train to bus. They all stop at Cook Street, which is just off Castle Street.

**PLEASE CHECK AT THE NEXT MEETING AS GERRY MIGHT HAVE TO CHANGE THIS WALK DUE TO ROADWORKS MAKING IT UNVIABLE. IT IS LIKELY TO BE CHANGED.**

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### **PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR MEMORY EXPERIMENT!**

**Are you an aged 50 or above?**

**Are you interested in helping “memory and ageing” research?**

**Great!!! You may be eligible to participate in a study at Liverpool John Moores University exploring how individual memory strategies predict future cognitive decline.**

**The procedure lasts approximately 1 hour and it includes some “pencil and paper” and “computer-based” tests to evaluate your cognitive functioning.**

**All participants are reimbursed for their time with a £10 Tesco or Amazon voucher and free car spaces are available at the campus, if needed!**

**\*\* Consecutive bookings are available for couples or friends!**

**Please, contact Deborah Talamonti for further information:**

**Deborah e -mail [D.Talamonti@2016.ljmu.ac.uk](mailto:D.Talamonti@2016.ljmu.ac.uk) telephone 07864945084**

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# West Region of U3As

Invite applications for their Residential Summer School

29<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017

At Newton Rigg College, Penrith,  
Cumbria, CA11 0AH

*An opportunity to learn in the inspiring setting of the Lake District*



Newton Rigg College is located close to J40 of the M6 and less than five minutes' drive from Penrith Railway Station. The campus, which is just ten minutes from Ullswater, has modern facilities, student en-suite rooms with Wi-Fi access. Food is locally sourced and prepared on the premises. A large room

is available for meeting and socialising. There will be entertainment on the second evening and a "Gala Dinner" on the third and final evening

The ten courses on offer include those which have proved popular in previous years and a number of new courses. Course titles are: **About Beauty, Architecture: The ABC of Cities, Digital Digging for Armchair Archaeologists, Geology of Lakeland Landscapes, Painting with Stitches, Medicine in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Recorder Playing, Russian and Soviet Culture, Science is for Everyone, Ukulele for Beginners**

**Full Board Residential Delegate; £275** We include a welcome reception, full board for three nights (including dinner on the 1st September), breakfast, morning coffee and lunch on 2nd September.



**Non-Residential Day Delegate: £155** includes lunches, teas and coffees, (excludes breakfast (£8.00) a 2 course dinner (£16.00) and Thursdays' Gala Dinner £24.00. **If any of these meals are required they must be booked in advance and would be subject to an additional charge. Alternatively, Accommodation is available at the Travelodge /local B&B's or Hotels. Full details of the costs for the school are set out in the Booking Notes.**

An Application form, obtained from our Website, must be completed and sent with a deposit cheque for £50.

Any member booking and paying their deposit of £50 no later than 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 will attract a discount on the above figures of £35 (Full Board Residential Delegate) and £35 (Non-Residential Day Delegate). Any queries should be directed to Neil Stevenson on 01744 895723 or [ndstevenson@hotmail.com](mailto:ndstevenson@hotmail.com)

## **PLEASE NOTE;**

It has been suggested that if any of our members are going to the summer school it might be a good idea for them to meet up prior to the event. The idea being that maybe travelling could be shared or at least they could get to know each other in advance of the school. Please let me know if you are thinking of going and would find it helpful to meet others from our U3A who are also going.

[chairman@oxtonu3a.net](mailto:chairman@oxtonu3a.net)

[www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west)



**Wednesday June 7<sup>th</sup>. North West Regional AGM and Conference**

Venue: Quaker Meeting House, Manchester.

Breakout groups will include

- Top Tips for Treasurers (John Ellison, National Treasurer)
- Being a U3A Trustee (Gill Russell, Regional Trustee)
- Research (John Kaye)

Entertainment (to be confirmed)

Guest speaker Neil Smith – ‘Have Guitar will Travel’

More details in next newsletter

**Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup>. Learning in the Future**

A look at MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) – a way of using the internet to assist learning.

Venue: Gateway Centre, Warrington. Presenter Ian Hunt. Flyer and registration details are on the website

**August 29<sup>th</sup>- September 1<sup>st</sup>. Don't forget the North West Regional Summer School. Newton Rigg Near Penrith.**

Course details and registration form are available on the website. Registration is going very well so if there's something you're interested in book quickly. There's a discount if you book before the end of May.

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**FINALLY.....**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT CAR PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT THE CHURCH HALL**

Contractors have started replacing the Church roof; the work will take until the end of June if all goes according to plan.

**PARKING AT THE CHURCH HALL WILL BE EXTREMELY LIMITED**

**UNLESS YOU HAVE LIMITED MOBILITY PLEASE PARK IN ADJACENT ROADS AND WALK TO THE HALL.**

THE RAMP AND STAIRLIFT WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO WHEELCHAIR USERS who will have to park in Beresford Road and use the back entrance into the hall.

TWPG Church apologises for any inconvenience whilst this essential work is carried out.

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I am on a steep learning curve as I start to edit the Newsletter and ask your patience should there be teething problems. Sandra has been a huge source of help and I am hugely grateful to her. Please do not hesitate to let me know of any problems you meet when passing on material. My e-mail is [elianedavie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elianedavie@hotmail.co.uk)

Eliane Davie