



June Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

So, my first year as your Chairman has come to an end and I have managed, successfully I hope, to steer us through my first AGM. This coming year is going to be a year for further changes in the way we, your elected Committee, administer Oxton, Prenton and District U3A.

The first change is all centred around the law regarding our data protection which will come into force on 25th May 2018. Whilst I am aware that this law is really aimed at controlling the large Companies that possibly use our data recklessly, never the less it is a legal necessity that we abide by these new regulations.

I am sure many of you have received emails from other organizations that hold your data telling you what their policy for data protection is. We, your Committee, will shortly be sending you all a similar notification as to where you can access our Data Protection Policy and also our Privacy Policy.

Please rest assured that we take your data protection seriously, the only people who have access to your data are Committee Members, Group Leaders and Group Welfare Ladies and we will never divulge any of your data without your permission. We will obviously have to share your data if you sign up to receive copies of the magazine Third Age Matters and also if you sign up for email copies of Newsletters from National Office. We will always give you the opportunity to let us know if you wish to remove your data from our database and cease to receive emails from us, if this is the case please email your request to membership@oxtonu3a.co.uk

I am sure you all agree that the safest, quickest method of communication is via email and hope that you are all re-assured that your data is safe with us and will continue to accept this form of communication from your U3A.

Those of you without access to the internet will just need to request a printed copy of these policies from myself or any other Committee Member at a Thursday morning meeting.

Sandra Lakin

Chairman

BRIAN'S MUSINGS



'In June he'll change his tune', the old folk song tells us with reference to the cuckoo who's relatively brief visit is about to end in the following month. It is many years now since I last heard a cuckoo so the subtleties of altered melodies tend to escape me. I can hardly remember what the main theme sounded like. 'He singeth as he fly', yet another song informs us; and this I can vouch for. I have a clear memory of being in a suburb of Derby when a child and watching a cuckoo fly over whilst singing its heart out. On another occasion a cuckoo deposited an egg in a small conifer no more than four metres from my mother's front door in urban Breaston. Where are they now? And while we are at it where are all the hedgehogs?

I blame technology. It is bound to be at the bottom of the issue somewhere. Of course most people would rather have a smart-phone than cuckoos and hedgehogs any day. I would not. They add to the quality and texture of our lives in a way that we have obviously failed to appreciate. The same could be said, no doubt, of smart-phones perhaps but there is a difference: the denizens of the natural world tend to get on with whatever they do, relatively unobtrusively, whilst at the same time contributing to the general good. The same cannot be said for technology.

A letter came recently informing me that a new SIM card was being sent to me and indicating that this was an occasion for rejoicing. I doubted it. The card arrived accompanied by instructions, the individual words of which I could understand but the general import of which might just as well have been written in Mandarin. In no way did I invite this intrusion, neither did I request the anxiety I am intended to experience should I fail to act on these cryptic demands effectively. They will probably cut off my phone. They have failed to take into account the fact they are dealing with someone who remembers a time when not a single house in our whole street had a phone or anyone we knew personally in the whole world for that matter; but we did have cuckoos and hedgehogs and even thrushes helping to control the snails in the garden.

I only use the wretched device two or three times a year but if they take it away it will not suddenly be replaced by the nature that they thoughtlessly removed long ago. There are compensations. I was sitting in the garden recently when a squirrel joined me on the adjacent chair where it obligingly proceeded to do a little dance. I doubt that it had my entertainment in mind. It was more likely to be to do with the nut-feeder being in need of replenishment. Even so, this brief and fearless communication was something real, immediate, delightful and abounding with life. Not knowing what a SIM is or indeed what to do with it, and suffering the consequences of this terrible ignorance, matters little by comparison.

BRIAN GILL

U3A DEESIDE & WIRRAL NETWORK

I don't know how many of you realise that our U3A is a member of the Wirral and Deeside Network of U3A's their URL is www.u3asites.org/deeside-wirral I usually go along to the quarterly meetings of this network group and I would be very happy to take any of our members along if anyone is interested in going.

Unfortunately at the moment there is a dire shortage of U3A members who are willing to take on the Officer roles. If no-one comes forward to volunteer for these roles then unfortunately the Wirral and Deeside Network will have to close. By September we need to have volunteers for Chairman, Secretary and also Treasurer. Whilst none of these positions are particularly onerous

(except possibly the role of Chairman) in the case of Treasurer there are only about half a dozen transactions in a year. But it is a legal requirement that we fill these Officer roles.

If any of our members feel they might be willing to volunteer or just want to know more about the network I would be more than happy to answer any questions, just speak to me at one of our Thursday meetings or drop me an email chairman@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Sandra Lakin

Chairman

PLAY READING GROUP



There is room for another three men or women to join the Play Reading Group which meets on the first and last Wednesdays of the month between 10.30 and 12.30 am. at June Wilson's house.

We read a variety of all types of plays, moving the parts around and switching frequently so that everyone gets the same chance to read. It is very informal and totally non competitive plus we enjoy coffee and biscuits and a good chat.

Anyone interested in joining should phone June Wilson who is leader of the group on 652 8756

LUNCH GROUP

Dates to note for 2018 MEET AT 12.45 for 1pm Note new time

Tuesday June 19th The Refreshment Rooms
Tuesday July 17th Afternoon Tea at Peel Hey at 2.30pm
Cost £17 – full payment on booking please.

Closing date for booking June 21st



COLIN STREDDER

SOCIAL OUTINGS

No bookings or reservations can be taken without payment.
This is necessary in order to be fair to all our members
PLEASE try to book events BEFORE the START of meetings
Payment at end of meetings MUST be either cheque or correct cash only

SOCIAL OUTINGS

EVENTS

Annual outing to House & gardens 2018
CHATSWORTH HOUSE

Bakewell Derbyshire
Cost which includes Entry & coach **£30**
N.b. Any adjustment will be notified (if necessary)
THURSDAY 14 JUNE
Brief schedule
Depart Trinity with Palm Grove 9.00 am
Arrive destination approx 11.30 am
Free time to explore gardens, visit house & have lunch
Depart for home 4.30 pm – arrive home 7.00 pm approx
Booking closing 24 May



ANNUAL 'BOAT TRIP' 2018
FRIDAY 13 JUNE
A little different this year
Depart Trinity with Palm Grove 9.00am
Collect 'guide for the day' and spend a little time exploring Much Wenlock
LUNCH 1.00 pm in award winning Inn
Lunch will be served from the U.K's first AGA Carvery
After lunch will spend a little time in Shrewsbury
Finally a 45 minute 'cruise' along the River Severn
Leave for home 5.00 pm to arrive home approx 6.30pm
COST £33 to include travel, lunch & boat trip
Any necessary adjustments to cost will be notified
Booking must close 7 June



NEW
Wirral Transport Museum & Heritage Tramway visit
10 OCTOBER
For Local History group and general membership
Details to follow soon



THEATRE

COLLECT TICKETS & MEET @ THEATRE
FOR FOLLOWING 2 SHOWS

PAINT YOUR WAGON
EVERYMAN THEATRE
Thursday 31 MAY @ 7.30pm
Booking closed



AN EVENING WITH DAN SNOW (Historian, broadcaster & TV presenter)
FLORAL PAVILION, NEW BRIGHTON
FRIDAY 22 JUNE @ 7.30 pm
Booking closed



NEW THEATRE
A feast for all Ballet lovers – Two completely different versions of the same ballet!!

Derek Deane's SWAN LAKE
The 2018 production by The English National Ballet
Liverpool Empire
Thursday 22 NOVEMBER 18 @ 2.00pm
Tickets £22.00



PLUS
Matthew Bourne's re-imagined version of his iconic Swan Lake
This ballet is almost certain to sell out very quickly so
Tickets have been reserved for Thursday 11 April 2019 @
Liverpool Empire and will go on sale shortly

Full booking details available @ meetings - see your social organisers

COACH COSTS are dependent on numbers travelling so it may be necessary to adjust prices slightly from time to time

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA -2018

June 7th Marion Jackson
Barbara Riley
Gerry Riley

June 21st Joyce Roberts
Jean Skillicorn
Beryl Davies



July 5th Wendy Devonald
Lorraine Malyj
Ann Hillier

July 19th Margaret Cullen
Paul Cullen
Bernadette Hamilton



August 13th Sue Berry
Norah Murray
Sylvia Hunt

September 27th Eliane Davie
Ann Jou
Jean Dickie

October 11th Grieg Roberts
John Roberts
Maureen Oldham

TERRA COTTA WARRIORS



Some samples of the many figures and artefacts on show at the Terra Cotta Warriors Exhibition. Many thanks to Barbara for organising another most interesting outing.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP



Dates for U3A history of art meetings.
All meetings in Trinity Session room start at 10.15a.m. unless otherwise stated:

2018

June 20th Meeting in the Session Room

Bernadette will be talking about "Women Artists of the 19th Century"

TATE GALLERY VISIT May 16th

The Art Group met at the Tate Liverpool for the exhibition called Ken's Show, Exploring the Unseen, to mark the Tate Liverpool's 30th birthday. Once again we were fortunate to have the entertaining and knowledgeable John, tour guide, to take us through the exhibition. John described Ken Simons as a flat capped Northern chap who joined Tate London 43 years ago and moved to Tate Liverpool for the gallery's opening in 1988. Ken, now retired, was the Art Handler responsible for the practicalities of handling and installing artworks and mounting major exhibitions with artworks from all over the world. In total he has worked on approximately 200 shows handling some 17,000 artworks.

Ken took great pleasure in curating this exhibition which included paintings by Turner, Mondrian, Rothco, Paul Nash, Anthony Gormley and others and sculptures by Henry Moore, Dame Barbara Hepworth and a complicated sculpture by Philip King called Within, made of elm, slate and metal, (think IKEA, spread out on the floor with angular pieces, nuts and bolts and how to piece it together). Ken worked very closely with the artists; gosh, memories of Tracey Emin's "My Bed, fag ends and all. He chose the artworks specifically to show the artists exploring unseen spaces, the mysteries we cannot see. The works spanned from the early 18th century to the 20th century showing how many artists have explored similar aspects over periods of time. Each exhibit has its own narrative displayed alongside and Ken included his thoughts on each piece, always of great interest to art lovers, how others interpret art works. What an enviable job, handling all those artworks, a great farewell to a lovely chap.

Williamina Edwards



[Read the national
newsletter](#)

At u3a.org.uk/email

AND FINALLY

*I hope that you have all been enjoying the recent sunshine and that you find the newsletter useful.
Thank you once again for all your contributions, please keep them coming!*

elianedavie@hotmail.co.uk

Eliane Davie Editor

