



July Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

For those of you who are fairly new members and maybe don't know about our summer break, I would like to let you know that our last meeting before the break will be on Thursday 19th July and we return on Thursday 30th August. There will be no newsletter or Speaker and Social mornings during August, please check with individual Group Leaders the arrangements for any Groups that you belong to.

I am sure you all appreciate how we, your Committee, look forward to those few weeks off duty. Every member of your Committee has a task to do. Whether it is booking speakers, organising social mornings, banking money, and keeping accounts up to date, maintaining the database, liaising with Group Leaders, dealing with National Office, editing the newsletter, or arranging theatre visits and days out. On top of which there are the numerous volunteers who make the coffee and wash up, put chairs and tables out and then put them back again. Lead a group or plan a walk. Each and every one of us look forward collectively to that one month when we don't have any deadlines to meet and needn't keep an eye on the date, just sit back and relax.

Hopefully this wonderful weather will continue to lift our spirits and I would like to wish them and all of you, our wonderful members, a peaceful, enjoyable break. Just don't forget to come back refreshed ready to look forward to a new season with our U3A.

Sandra Lakin
Chairman

BRIAN'S MUSINGS



We are in the time of mass migration. Airports, service stations and harbours are teeming with people determined to be somewhere else. The urge to seek better and more benign pastures has long been with us. As hunter-gatherers such movements were essential and later, as herders, we took our animals with us. Now-a-days we tend to put them on a lorry or in a kennels or cattery but in ancient times, not so very long ago, we used the old drovers' roads and took everything with us. These old ways are now forgotten and have mostly disappeared.

My rural life in Spain brought me into contact with the shepherding fraternity. One of them, on getting a little old for the job, tried to sell me his flock. He was quite insistent, in spite of all my efforts to get him to appreciate my situation. I had to travel back to England at least twice a year. How did he imagine I was going to make this seasonal migration with well over a hundred sheep to stow in the Easy-Jet hold?

The fact that our seasonal migrations can happen within the space of a few hours is to our detriment. We are like organ transplants removed from the body of one geographic location and ecology and transplanted to another, with the arterial system of which we have little or no real connection. We should travel no faster than a bullock cart can carry us. In this way we adapt and adjust to each ecology and culture as we pass through it and arrive at our destination more or less in tune, having shared information on the way with each community as we passed through it.

There was a time when I travelled quite extensively in the old, communist Yugoslavia. Something always went radically wrong. On one occasion my car had a faulty starter-motor. I took it to several garages to no avail. I could only ever park where there were plenty of beefy young men about to give me a push and though I never spoke a word of the local language, amazingly the help that was needed was always there, (with the one exception of a correct diagnosis of the technical problem). And this has always been the case. There is nothing like misfortune to bring us into contact with the more real aspects of human behaviour and yet we do everything possible to protect ourselves from the dreaded unknown.

It is unlikely that we will ever reinstate the old drovers' roads, however much, at a deep psychological level, we may need them. I do not doubt that the inner equivalent is still there to be trodden. The inner journey between powerfully engaging opposites it still awaiting our attention. Life itself compels us to take the path between the bleak, high, cool pastures and the lush lowland plains; between the cold, austere north and the warm, abundant south, with so much to learn on the way; especially when we break down!

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

PATRICIA DAWSON

I am sure those members, who have been with us for some time, and those of you who live locally knew Pat Dawson, she had been a member of our U3A for many years until she became housebound through illness.

It is with sadness that we heard from her son, Michael, that Pat died on 9th June, 2018. The details of her funeral, for those of you who would like to attend, are as follows;

The funeral mass will be held at Holy Name Church (60 Beresford Rd, Oxton, CH43 2JD), at 12 noon on Monday 2 July.

The cremation will then be at the South Chapel at Landican Crematorium (Arrowe Park Rd, CH49 5LW).

Refreshments will be available afterwards at Hulme Hall (23 Bolton Rd, Port Sunlight, CH62 5DH). There is a large car park to the right of Hulme Hall, which is accessible around the corner from the main entrance, via Church Drive. If you'd prefer not to attend Landican, tea and coffee will be available at Hulme Hall after the service at Holy Name.

THE ROVERS RETURN

Twenty eighteen sees the Rovers return
Three wilderness years of no more concern
Ten men shrugged off Wembley fatigue
To take us back into the league
As brightly once more the 'Super Whites' burn
11 June 2018



Paul Cullen

LUNCH GROUP

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

Tuesday July 17 th	Afternoon Tea at Peel Hey at 2.30pm Cost £17 – full payment on booking please.
Tuesday September 18 th	The Traveller's Rest, Bebington
Tuesday October 16 th	The Queen's Arms, Oxton
Tuesday November 20 th	Carnavon Castle, Oxton



COLIN STREDDER

SOCIAL OUTINGS

IMPORTANT NOTICE

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

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.

SOCIAL OUTINGS

EVENTS

ANNUAL 'BOAT TRIP' 2018

FRIDAY 13 JULY

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

Meet at Trinity with Palm Grove for 9.00 am departure

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 closed



Wirral Transport Museum & Heritage Tramway visit

10 OCTOBER

For Local History group and general membership

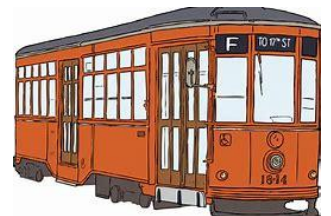
Meet at Woodside for 10.30am journey by coach to museum

Talk & free time until approx 12.00 noon when we travel back to

Woodside

Cost £ 5.00

Possibility of optional lunch if suitable venue can be found.



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 @ 2.30 pm

Liverpool Empire and are on sale now.

COST £34.00 – can be reserved by deposit of 14.00 with balance payable later in year

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA -2018

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



MEETINGS and SPEAKERS 2018

2018



Thursday 19 th July	Behind the Scenes in Theatre and TV. – Fiona Martine
Thursday 13 th September	The Cultural Significance of the Belly Dance – Fatma
Thursday 11 th October	Ephemera – Glynn Parry
Thursday 8 th November	The Christmas Tree: where Culture, Science and Magic Meet.
Thursday 6 th December	Faith, Fun and Fellowship – Michael Burgess

WALKING GROUP



The group enjoyed an excellent walk on June 15th led by Gerry Riley. The area, around Daresbury, was new to many of us and proved to make for an attractive and interesting walk. Rain held off and the countryside, through fields and along the canal towpath, looked at its best. As usual we finished up at the “Ring O’ Bells Pub” for an excellent lunch.

Many thanks to Gerry for organising it.



Our July walk will be led by Ken Jackson on Friday 20th July and will be around the pretty Rivacre Valley. Either sign up at the next two meetings or on line.

We meet at the Wheatsheaf Pub (Wetherspoons) in Overpool for 11am. Either drive and park at the pub or come by train. The Ellesmere Pt. Train leaves Hamilton Square Stn. 10.27am arriving at Overpool Stn. At 10.56am. Turn R out of Stn. And the pub is approx. 100 meters down the road.

U3A MEETING ON July 5th

Ray Lerner will be leading a Music Quiz at this meeting.

CHATSWORTH HOUSE VISIT

After weeks of sunshine we set off for Chatsworth on a very unsettled morning, armed with umbrellas, raincoats and all the paraphernalia that the British need to take for a day out. We needn't have worried as we arrived to blue skies and a pleasantly warm day!

The House is stunning as it nears the end of a 20 million pound restoration that began in 2007. There were guides in every room to answer any questions, all very knowledgeable, and it became clear that the present Duke and Duchess are very hands on people. As well as historical facts there were plenty of anecdotes to tell. I particularly liked the story of the 11th Duke not having the means to pay death duties. He had 3 Rembrandts and offered one in lieu. The 'Income Tax' agreed to this arrangement and came to choose one..... it turned out to be a fake. Whenever the family pass the remaining two paintings they look up to heaven and remind themselves that there is a God up there! Wouldn't we all do the same??

A wander around the gardens, followed by ice creams and a pleasant journey home ended another excellent outing

Thank you Barbara.



Pauline Pinnington





PLEA TO MEMBERS

We all benefit from all the effort and thought that Barbara Lloyd and Barbara Winstanley put into organizing outings and events for us. Barbara tells me that they would really appreciate feedback from members via the Newsletter so that they can gauge the popularity or otherwise of their choices.



After each outing or theatre visit Barbara usually asks for a volunteer to write a short piece commenting on the experience for the newsletter and often has difficulty finding someone willing to do one. Often it is the same people who come forward every time. It would be great if other members were to come forward so that we could garner a variety of comment.

Do please think about it and if you would like to try writing a short comment (maybe circa 200 words). Let Barbara know at the start of the event and if she hasn't already found someone she is sure to be delighted.

Ed.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

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



The next meeting on July 18th will be at the TWPG session room where some members will do short presentations of the work of artists they admire.

No meeting during August . On September 19th there is a visit to the Tate Gallery to view an exhibition of the work of Egon Schiele. There will be a charge for this as we will have a guide. Further information in the September newsletter and at the first U3A meeting after the break on August 30th.



[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

S

