



# November Newsletter

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It seems quite unbelievable how quickly time passes, especially as you get older! It has already been one year since we all celebrated our tenth birthday. It has been rather a momentous year in which many things have been achieved.

Eliane, our newsletter editor, celebrated a very special birthday this year and she has very generously arranged a raffle with prizes consisting of special goodies left over from her celebrations. All proceeds from this raffle will go toward purchasing extra items to be donated to our Christmas Charity which is The Charles Thompson Mission. So on 25<sup>th</sup> October and 8<sup>th</sup> November, Eliane will be selling raffle tickets, please buy a strip, you may even win. Prizes will include, Champagne, Chocolates and Wine. The draw will take place at our meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> November.

**Sandra Lakin**  
**Chairman**

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## BRIAN'S MUSINGS

November is a strange sort of month. It takes a bit of getting used to and I'm not sure that I have quite got the hang of it yet. It begins with the feast of All Souls, more

popularly known as Halloween, and I have previously referred to the Celtic concept of 'no time' which has a similar orientation, standing as it does between two worlds, the inner and the outer, whilst at the same time belonging to neither. Then we have bonfire night, a festival much older than the gunpowder plot it purports to celebrate and is firmly committed to the dark, inner world of the subconscious, which we go towards with fires that all too soon die out and leave us with ashes and darkness – at least they would if it were not for electricity which we use to allay our darkest fears. One woman I knew slept each night with all the lights in her flat switched on.



November is clearly a month on the cusp between summer and winter; between darkness and light, leaving us in no doubt as to which way it is facing. Clocks have just been put back and the winter solstice now lies ahead, less than two months away. However all is not lost. The stores present us with a veritable orgy of light that flickers and gleams in ropes, chains and branches for as long as we feel able or inclined to pay the electricity bill. Already the shops are filling with Christmas provender. Mince pies have been on sale for a month or two now and Selfridges opened their Christmas department back in July. There are those who write their Christmas cards at this point. I wish I could do that.

On the other hand it seems a pity to spend one month preparing for the next. What about 'living in the moment'? Though feasts and celebrations traditionally involve light in one way or another, what about celebrating the dark for its own sake, rather than as something to be illumined and dispelled? After all, as far as we know, everything we perceive and register with the senses has come from the dark. Our ancestors were certainly aware of this and had no difficulty in honouring the 'dark womb of creation' and the female principal in general. As we enter the darkest, coldest time of the year we can be reasonably sure that from the twenty first of December the sun will actually be getting stronger, despite all evidence to the contrary; but then there must have been a time when even the space that the solar system currently occupies was simply dark and empty.

I offer this, not as a council of despair but rather as a basic principal that pervades the whole system in which we find ourselves. We are engendered, repaired, healed and regenerated by the dark from which we came. This is not a popular notion at the moment but one that I have personally found very reassuring.

**Brian Gill**

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## **LUNCH GROUP**

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

**Tuesday November 20<sup>th</sup>** Carnarvon Castle, Oxton.



**N.B.** There is no Lunch Group in December as we have the Christmas Dinner.

### **Dates for 2019**

**January 15<sup>th</sup>** The Refreshment Rooms

**February 19<sup>th</sup>** The Shippons

**March 19<sup>th</sup>** The Queen's Arms

**April 16<sup>th</sup>** The Toby Carvery

**May 21<sup>st</sup>** The Pesto (Dibbinsdale)

**June 18<sup>th</sup>** The Travellers' Rest

**July 16<sup>th</sup>** Peel Hey – afternoon tea **Please note time 2.30 pm**

**COLIN STREDDER**

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**TEA AND COFFEE ROTA 25<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER TO FEBRUARY 2019 If  
you cannot do a duty, please ring me, JOAN BENTON, ON 608 6226**

**25<sup>TH</sup> October 2018**

Barbara Birchall

Gwen Burrell

Jean Sheratt



**8<sup>th</sup> November 2018**

Joyce Roberts

Jean Skillicorn

Beryl Davies

**22<sup>nd</sup> November 2018**

Kate Walton

Helen Roberts

Judith Wheat

**6<sup>th</sup> December 2018**

Ursula Cook

Brenda George

Bernadette Hamilton

**3<sup>rd</sup> January 2019**

Grieg Roberts

John Roberts

Ann Hillier

**17<sup>th</sup> January 2019**

Maureen Jones

Dorothy Mathews

Arlene Hinton

**4<sup>th</sup> February 2019**

Corinne Whittaker

Barbara Riley

Marion Jackson

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**ON OCTOBER 10<sup>TH</sup> WE SPENT AN INTERESTING MORNING**

## AT THE TRANSPORT MUSEUM IN BIRKENHEAD



Thank you Barbara for yet another successful outing; we enjoyed the tram ride too! ED.

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\*\*\*\***VERY IMPORTANT**\*\*\*\*

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

\*\*\*\***VERY IMPORTANT**\*\*\*\*

I am sure you are all aware that your memberships will be due for renewal on 31<sup>st</sup> October and for this year only we have to ask you all to complete and sign a membership application form. By law we have to have permission from you to store your data and also to use your data to keep in contact with you. This form complete with your signature will be valid for as long as you remain a member of Oxton & Prenton District U3A. This is to ensure that we comply with the GDPR 2018 and in accordance with our Data Protection Policy which can be found on our website [www.oxtonu3a.co.uk](http://www.oxtonu3a.co.uk)

During early October we will send out a membership form either to your email address or by post to those of you who do not have an email address. We ask those of you receiving by email to print out the membership form (or if you do not have a printer to ask Gwyneth at the front desk for a copy) complete and sign the form and bring it with you when you come to renew your membership. Those receiving by post, please complete the form and bring it with you when you come to renew your membership.

Would you all also please note that there is a question regarding disability on the form. Please complete that question and especially let us know if your hearing or vision is impaired.

**WITHOUT THE COMPLETED FORM WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

Membership remains the same at £12-00 for the year or £8-50 if you are already a member of another U3A. For those of you who have only just joined our U3A you will not have to pay to renew membership until 2019 but we do require you to fill in a new membership form. Please bring along the correct cash (we are not able to give change) or a cheque made out to Oxton & Prenton District U3A. We will commence renewal at the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**PLEASE REMEMBER NO COMPLETED FORM**

**MEANS NO MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Sandra Lakin Chairman

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## SOCIAL OUTINGS

### EVENTS

#### 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.

#### CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2018

**This year's venue is Prenton Golf Club**

**Golf Links Road , PRENTON CH42 8LW**

**Thursday 20 December**

**12.00 noon for 12.30 pm**

**3 course meal £25.00**



#### THEATRE

##### STILL ALICE

*Based on the award winning novel & starring*

*Sharon Small*

**Liverpool Playhouse**

**Wednesday 7 November 5.30 pm**

**Tickets available for collection**



##### Derek Deane's SWAN LAKE

**The 2018 production by The English National Ballet**

**Liverpool Empire**

**Thursday 22 NOVEMBER 18 @ 2.00pm**

**Tickets available for collection**



##### Matthew Bourne's re-imagined version of his iconic Swan Lake

**Thursday 11 April 2019 @ 2.30 pm**

**Liverpool Empire**

**COST £34.00 – outstanding balances now due**

**Booking must close soon**



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### MEETINGS and SPEAKERS 2018

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

**The Christmas Tree: where Culture, Science and Magic Meet.**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**Faith, Fun and Fellowship – Michael Burgess**



## **SPEAKERS 2019**

### **Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

**A Policeman's Lot - Bill Johnstone.** The speaker shares with us his insightful and telling thoughts on a lifetime of policing.

### **Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

**The Origins of Place Names - Anthony Poulton-Smith.** You are welcome to bring interesting and mysterious place-names of your own for the speaker to consider. There can be a great deal more to a name than we might think.

### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

**Grand Narratives and Political Language - Mary Clinton.** We welcome back Mary Clinton whose insightful examination of the way in which we speak might help us to understand what our politicians are really saying when they address us at this crucial time.

### **Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

**British Humour: 18<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries - Michael Murphy.**

It is so easy to take humour for granted when really it can afford us amazing insights into the way we function. This talk offers an interesting development from our previous speaker.

### **Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

**The Canal Dukes - Bernard Dennis.** Our canals are currently taking on a new lease of life. Their early development supported the industrial revolution and changed our history; thanks to those who had the money, influence and insight to develop them. We can rely on Bernard Dennis to be his usual insightful and informative self.

### **Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

**Witches and Superstitions: their effect on modern culture - Jean Finney.** We might like to think that in an age of scientific rationalism we are free from the effects of demonology. Not so! Jean Finney has entertained us on two previous occasions and is returning in response to popular demand.

### **Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

**Confessions of a Probation Officer - Ray O'Brien.** We know that whatever Ray O'Brien shares with us will be a subject of great mirth. His talks are always a rare treat.

### **Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

**Major Predators of Liverpool Bay - Matthew Clough.** Matthew Clough will be sharing with us aspects of the work that he knows and values. He may well reveal aspects of which we might not be aware when we survey or even enter the waters of Liverpool Bay.

### **Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

**Through the Eye of a Magician - Peter Turner.** Peter Turner comes to us supported by a wealth of professional experience. He might possibly challenge the way in which we see things.

### **Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

**Viking and Saxon History on Merseyside - Diana Goodier.** Diana Goodier, a devoted historian, will make her talk particularly relevant to The Wirral and promises to dress for the occasion.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

**English Village Life in the Middle Ages - Stuart Elliot.** Stuart Elliot has the ability to bring to life ways of living and being that seem to be lost in time. He comes to us highly recommended and offers an interesting continuation and development from the previous speaker.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**Hollywood Drama Queens - Rina Tullinger.** And now for something completely different! Having chatted with the speaker on the phone I am sure that all who hear her will enjoy her originality and dynamism as she addresses this fascinating subject.

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## ***NOTES OF ACTIVITIES AT NON- SPEAKER MEETINGS***

**25th October:** Eliane Davie – Life as an airline stewardess in the 60's.

**22nd November:** Lyn Ebbrell - Magic of reflexology. How it can help you.

**Colin Stredder**

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## **Around the World in 108 Nights Part 3**



The final part of this account takes us back from the Antipodes. Leaving New Zealand we sailed across to the east coast of Australia. At times this was quite rough, a long swell of around 3 metres seemed to be with us most of the three day trip. By now it

was the end of February and we saw reports on the “Sky News” of the awful weather conditions brought by the “Beast from the East.” When we landed in Sydney it was 35 degrees centigrade. While at home it was around -10!



**Sydney Opera House**



**Sydney Harbor Bridge**

We berthed a little outside the city centre, having to get a ferry to see the main sights. I loved the bustle and vitality of the whole city.



Onto Brisbane a couple of days later. This is a more relaxed city, my main excursion was to see the koala sanctuary. They look cute, but can be bad tempered and a little smelly!

**Brisbane Station**

From here it was a day's cruise to Hamilton Island, a resort on the Barrier reef which we would continue cruising for the next couple of days. I remember here that it was particularly hot, approaching 40 centigrade. No wonder they are getting worried about rising sea temperatures damaging the coral. We then sailed across the north of Australia to the port of Darwin. Completely destroyed by a cyclone in the 1970's the rebuilt city has an air of colonial respectability about it. A walk around its main sites showed us how proud the citizens were of their home.



The next part of the cruise covered those more exotic parts of the world and some whose political situation is (or has been) unstable or crucial to world affairs. Komodo Island is the home of the famous dragons. We saw a big sign and we were able to see several of the rather dangerous inhabitants as we walked around.

Not a lot else to see on this outpost of Indonesia, we soon sailed for Singapore whose fall in World War II shocked the British nation to its core.



**Singapore**



**Petronas Tower**

**Kuala Lumpur**



**Central Market**

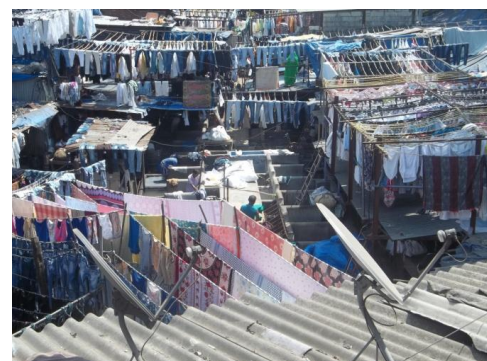
Now a modern city as is Kuala Lumpur, site of the Petronas Tower, one of the tallest structures in the world. We had a marvellous buffet lunch in sight of it before exploring the delights of its market and centre.



**Street Scene near Yangon**



**Main Pagoda in Yangon** The country of Myanmar, once known as Burma, has had a particularly difficult political time recently. We were to spend three days in the main port of Thilawa, a few miles from Yangon, once known as Rangoon. Geography lesson over, I can say that this country did unsettle me a little. We saw great gold covered pagodas while many of the population seemed to be living in the most extreme poverty. Trips out and about to see “local life” did not, I fear, tell the whole story.



**Indian washing in Mumbai**

Leaving Myanmar, we had a four day cruise before another highlight; India. Only two calls, but still enough to get an idea of the great country, once “The Jewel in the Crown” of the British Empire. It still has a very British feel. Before Mumbai we called into the southern port of Cochin. A smaller place, but with a bustling centre. We were able to see the way the fishermen lower their nets into the sea using a cantilever mechanism. **Mumbai** is just another experience. I chose the train trip to see the Dhobi-Wallers doing the washing in stone troughs. Apparently much of their work is for the denim jeans companies who need “stone washed” products. The train was not as busy as some you see, but the doors stay open for the whole journey and we saw people on other trains hanging onto the side. I list as a true highlight of the trip a one mile taxi ride through Mumbai’s traffic. I could not begin to describe it.

Leaving India, the mood on board became more sombre. You will have heard of the activities of Somalian pirates off the Horn of Africa. Although not so much in the news at the moment, they are still a threat and our deck was encased in razor wire at promenade deck level. We also took on armed security guards and had to observe a blackout after dark. This was to last a week as we crossed the Arabian Sea towards the Red Sea.

The Middle East is another political hotbed at the moment. Our first call, Aqaba in Jordan is in a relatively peaceful country, but we had sailed past Yemen and Saudi Arabia on one side of the Red Sea and Eritrea and Sudan on the other.



**Petra Centre** From Aqaba, most went to Petra, that “Rose Red City, Half as Old as Time”. It’s quite a walk down from the coach park and the whole return journey is uphill, but it’s worth it to see a truly world class spectacle. From here we went overnight to Sharm-el-Sheikh, a resort which has suffered due to recent terrorist attacks. We had armed guards on the coach which took us around the town and to the front where I went on a glass bottom boat ride. At our moorings we could look across the bay and see part of Israel.



### **The Suez Canal**

We had to time our departure correctly so as to get into the Suez Canal. Like the Panama Canal, the Suez opened in 1869, has been widened and for part of its length is no longer subject to the notorious one way system used in the past. Less spectacular than the Panama, it is mainly cut through sand dunes at sea level and links the Red Sea with the Mediterranean. As we came into the “Med.”, the change in

weather was noticeable; it was cooler and windier, the sun not seeming so strong. It *was* only early spring. There were security worries about docking at Alexandria, but we were finally allowed in, becoming the first cruise ship in three years to berth at the port.

### **Pyramids of Giza**



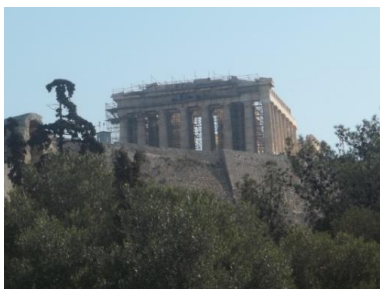
The main sight from here was Cairo and the Pyramids, a drive of several hours. The Cairo Museum is in the process of relocation, but we saw the treasures of Tutankhamen as well as many other pharaohs before going out to the Pyramids. Running the gauntlet of the hawkers we saw the three main structures on the site whose building has mystified humanity for thousands of years.

Our first Mediterranean call was at Kusadasi in Turkey which allowed us to visit the remains of Ephesus and see buildings mentioned in the New Testament



**Ephesus**

The final part of the cruise was a mini-Med voyage through Turkey, Greece, Italy and Spain. I found it to be very enjoyable and a good way of returning to the weather we would expect back at home after 2 ½ months of almost constant hot dry weather.



### **The Pantheon in Athens (in scaffolding )**

On to bustling Athens and its sights, (including, for me the trolley buses!) and the Pantheon, then through the Straits of Messina to Rome. While off the coast of Sicily we made another medical transfer; one of our passengers was transferred to a pilot cutter for transit to hospital. Rome was the only place I had visited before and I went on a walking tour of the main sights including the Trevi Fountain in Rome. We

waited for 45 minutes to get into St. Peter's but it was worth it, even if we could not get to the Sistine Chapel. Leaving Rome we continued to Livorno from where we went to Florence and Pisa. On this busy day there was not time to visit museums, just to get an idea of the sights, perhaps for a later visit.

Our final call of Malaga was beckoning. We had now been at sea for over three months and thoughts were turning to home, but not before visiting this once-classy resort in southern Spain. There still seem to be plenty of expensive yachts in the marinas in spite of the recession.

The last few days saw us pass through the Straits of Gibraltar (at night, unfortunately) and across quite a choppy Bay of Biscay. We docked early in Southampton on our arrival day; I was booked to stay on board and take the taster cruise up to Liverpool in the evening. This led to meeting a whole new group of people and entailed a trip round the southwest peninsula and up through Cardigan Bay. It was cloudy and windy most of the way and that made the sea quite rough at times. On the second morning, around 5-30, I looked out of the porthole and saw Wallasey Town Hall - my odyssey was at an end.



**Steve Cottam**

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## **WALKING GROUP**

Our walk on October 19<sup>th</sup> was led by Gwyneth and Corinne. It was a circular walk starting and finishing at Freshfield and ended at the Freshfield Arms Pub for lunch. It is a lovely area to walk in and in the red squirrel sanctuary we were able to spot some of the now rare species.



## **U3A Walk on Friday November 16th 2018**

A linear walk of just under 5.5 miles led by Gerry Riley, starting at Hoylake Railway Stn. and finishing at the Railway Pub in Meols around 1.15pm. We will be taking lunch at the pub.

The walk takes us across fields to Frankby over China Farm. A short walk along Frankby Rd. leads to a parallel path that runs through the old air base bringing us out near Meols Stn. and on to the Railway Pub.

Meet outside Hoylake Stn. no later than 10.30am. Parking is available at the Station or surrounding roads. Trains leave Hamilton Square at 09.45am and 10am arriving at Hoylake at 10.07 and 10.22am respectively.

Gerry's phone number on the day is: 07751807607 E-mail: [Gerry@riley1.me.uk](mailto:Gerry@riley1.me.uk)

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## **CHRISTMAS WALK**

I am planning a pre-Christmas walk probably on 14th December 2018. This is a week before normal to take account of the main Christmas lunch on 20th.

Mike and Joan Benton have offered to host the after walk lunch at 91 Prenton Hall Farm Road. There will be a walk around the Storeton area first. Would those interested in this walk please sign up at the U3A Meeting.

Gerry Riley

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## ART APPRECIATION GROUP

**Dates for U3A history of art meetings.**

**All meetings in Trinity Session room start at 10.15a.m. unless otherwise stated:**

Here is our programme for November 2018 – April 2019

November 21<sup>st</sup> – Williamson Art Gallery

December 20<sup>th</sup> – No Meeting

January 16<sup>th</sup> – Fernand Leger Exhibition (Tate Liverpool)

February 20<sup>th</sup> – “Every picture tells a story” Talk by Steve Cottam (Walker Art Gallery)

March 20<sup>th</sup> - Leonardo da Vinci – Talk by Bernadette Hamilton (Sessions Room)

April 17<sup>th</sup> – Leonardo Drawings Exhibition (Walker Art Gallery)



**Please make a note in your diaries.**

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## CREATIVE WRITING



Monica Price who leads the Creative Writing Group would welcome another three or four members. This is a really enjoyable group for those interested in developing their writing skills and meets on the Tuesday afternoon of the fourth week of each month at 2.30

Monica Price

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**You may be interested to know from head office:**

*The latest newsletter has gone out direct to the 'opt in' list of U3A members. It is packed full of news from U3As, news from the Trust, including upcoming events and new subject advisers and much more.*

*You can view it here if you have not already signed up yourself. Your members can view all back copies and sign up to receive it direct on our website <https://u3a.org.uk/about/newsletter> and also by clicking on the link below.*

**U3A EMAIL NEWSLETTER** Click here to add your name to the U3A email newsletter list, or visit [u3a.org.uk/email](https://u3a.org.uk/email)

***AND FINALLY,***    *As usual we have chosen our charity for Christmas; this year it is to be the Charles Thompson Mission so please remember to bring your gifts to the meeting on December 6<sup>th</sup>. We are also having a draw this year during November and will be putting the proceeds to buy goods for this excellent charity. Please support it – the prizes include two bottles of champagne, a bottle of prosccecco, chocolates, and toiletries. Tickets will be available at our meetings on October 25<sup>th</sup> and November 8<sup>th</sup> when the draw will take place.*



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**Eliane Davie   Editor**