



January Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

At this time of year it is customary to look ahead, plan the year and make various resolutions and for the last few months I have been struggling with a dilemma. I absolutely love being the Chairman of Oxton & Prenton U3A and have, in the most really enjoyed the tasks and responsibilities it brings.

However most of you are aware of my health problems and, whilst I feel and look fine with little or no side effects from the treatment involved, I am aware that I am unfortunately missing many Thursday meetings. This is because my oncology clinic is on a Thursday morning and also I need to go frequently for various tests which again happen on Thursday mornings. I happen to think that our U3A deserves a full time chairman not a part time one and despite all the support and help from other Committee Members it is with a heavy heart that I have decided to resign as your Chairman with effect from the AGM this year (2019).

So in April there will be a lot of changes to your Committee and the following Officer roles will need to be filled;

1. Chairperson
2. Secretary (Jean has completed 3 years in this role and unfortunately our Constitution states that Officers must stand down after 3 years service, except for the Treasurer.
3. Vice Chairmen. We have only had 1 Vice Chairman for the past two years whilst it is always advisable to have two. If Brian stands for the Chair we will need to appoint two Vice Chairmen/women.

So we will be looking to appoint at least one new Committee Member and then we will need to appoint the above Officers. If you are at all interested please come and talk informally to me or any other Committee Member. We would be very happy to answer any questions you may have.

WE NEED THESE OFFICER VACANCIES FILLED SO THAT YOUR U3A CAN OPERATE CORRECTLY AND EFFICIENTLY. PLEASE GIVE THE IDEA OF OFFERING YOUR SERVICES SOME THOUGHT.

Sandra Lakin
Chairman



BRIAN'S MUSINGS



If you are reading this there is a good chance that you will have survived the recent festive season and perhaps congratulations are in order; for no matter how you came to it, either with an enhanced degree of social adaptation or an instinct for quiet isolation, whether for you things happened as was seemly and good or whether they were not at all to your liking or expectation, you are here now. WE are here now and a whole New Year lies before us. What next?

Collectively the signs for the year ahead give little cause for comfort however one might interpret them. I find it helpful to look back to the solutions offered us by our ancestors. When we fail to do this we simply go on repeating the same mistakes and are incapable of moving into new areas of being. The Ancients taught in myth, metaphor and analogy as a means of conveying wisdom that was often too subtle to be defined by common language. What should one do when there is a problem to which there appears to be no viable answer?

Two solutions are offered by a range of disparate cultures but beware of taking either of them literally: one is to go underground and make a positive and creative journey of discovery, returning to the surface richer and wiser when the danger is past, the other lies in building a vessel which is capable of riding out the chaos of ignorance and stupidity that floods the collective psyche and wait for the waters to subside. Both have their merits.

The danger from which the protagonists seek to escape is always the product of polarised attitudes. People align themselves with views that are diametrically opposed and are often, in the end, prepared to kill for them. Certainly violence becomes an issue, though it solves nothing. What existential problem has ever been solved by fear, restriction, deprivation, imprisonment, torture and death? Yet we continue to behave as though power and force, delivered by a strong will, are the only viable guarantors of a valid outcome.

Build an ark! Gather together the elements of your life and culture that are capable of sustaining you until the flood subsides or else: go underground! Jung demonstrated the creative power of the subconscious. We are so addicted to looking outwards, on to a world of material display, that we neglect to acknowledge the wealth of creativity, wisdom and real authority that lies within; if we can only resist the temptation to squander them on wars of irreconcilable opposites.

We can expedite either or both of these solutions as solitary individuals or together in groups. The U3A already offers us such a vehicle and may well become ever more significant as the year unfolds. Of course we could be accused of 'fiddling while Rome burns' but history has shown that Rome needed to burn, and though rescued from Nero it eventually fell. Any system based on duality can only ever have a limited lifetime. As it swings between extremes it exhausts itself.

Here the Ancients offer us another clue: the key to survival, they show us, lies in inclusivity and the reconciliation of opposites. Myths, legends, fairy tales and our own dreams show us the folly of investing exclusively in one isolated point of focus. Those who do so are vulnerable to destruction. After all no pendulum or set of scales can function without a fulcrum upon which the whole system depends, yet when we become addicted to particulars we are prevented from seeing this. Time and again the Ancients warn us "Do not forget the whole picture!" Do we even know what it is?

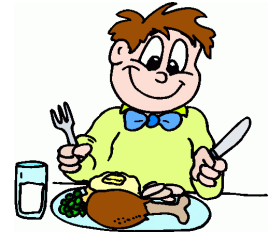
Brian Gill

LUNCH GROUP

Dates to note for 2019 MEET AT 12.45 for 1pm

Dates for 2019

January 15th	The Refreshment Rooms
February 19th	The Shippons
March 19th	The Queen's Arms
April 16th	The Toby Carvery
May 21st	The Pesto (Dibbinsdale)
June 18th	The Travellers' Rest
July 16th	Peel Hey – afternoon tea Please note time: 2.30 pm



COLIN STREDDER

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

3rd January 2019

Gwen Burrell
Jean Sheratt
Ann Hillier



17th January 2019

Maureen Jones
Arlene Hinton
Norah Murray

31st January 2019

Marian Jackson
Barbara Riley
Dorothy Pittard



14th February 2019

Wendy Devonald
Lorraine Malyj
Mary Hamilton



28th February 2019

Gwyneth Thomas

Hilary Robinson

Margaret Yeardsley

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.

SOCIAL OUTINGS

REMINDER

TOUR OF ADELPHI HOTEL

In conjunction with Local History group

Meet at the hotel on

Thursday 24 January 2019 for a

1 hour tour starting at 11.00 am

Followed by Carvery lunch

Full – waiting list only



NEW

BOOKING FROM JANUARY

TOUR OF LIVERPOOL JOHN LENNON AIRPORT

THURSDAY 21 FEBRUARY 2019

Guided tour of Landside & Airside (indoors)

11.30am to approx 2.00 pm

Cost £7.50

Intention is to travel by public transport

Meeting at Liverpool One bus terminal by 10.15am

500 bus stop

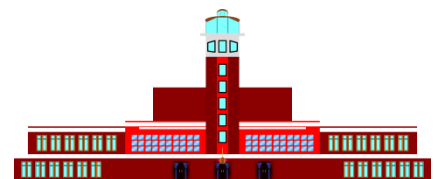
Those wishing to drive should park in Multistorey and will be issued with passes on the day making parking *free*

All to assemble within terminal at 11.00am

There is time for a comfort/tea or coffee break – Starbucks

Everyone must give details to social organisers of Passport/Driving Licences which are **required prior to tour for security purposes** and **MUST** be produced again on the tour.

Booking will close when full/31 January (latest)



Tour of Liverpool Empire Theatre

Thursday 7 March 2019

Tour starts 11.00am and lasts approx 1 hour 15 mins.

Takes us through theatre with commentary on the theatre's history and information on the running of the theatre

Cost £5.00

Booking will close 14 February (latest)



THEATRE

Reminder

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

Thursday 11 April 2019 @ 2.30 pm

Liverpool Empire

Collect tickets and meet at Theatre



MEETINGS and SPEAKERS 2019



Thursday 3rd January

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

Thursday 31st 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 28th 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 28th March

British Humour: 18th- 20th 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 25th 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 23rd 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 20th 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 18th 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 12th 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 10th 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 7th 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 5th 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.

NOTES OF ACTIVITIES AT NON- SPEAKER MEETINGS

Thursday January 17 th	Steve Cottam will tell us about his "Round the World" cruise.
Thursday February 14 th	Neil Thompson from John Moore's University will talk about stair safety.
Thursday March 14 th	Wallasey U3A's Ukulele Band (via Brian)
Thursday April 11 th	Colin Stredder will give a Quiz.
Thursday May 9 th	Tony Storey will talk about the Liver Building.
Thursday June 6 th	Wallasey U3As Guitar Group (via Brian)
Thursday July 4 th	Colin is doing a dance anagram – on dance.

Colin Stredder

WALKING GROUP

Tony Swarbrick will be leading the January walk. There will be further information at the next U3A meeting.



CHRISTMAS WALK 2018

About to set off on our Christmas walk! We were fortunate to have the best day of the week with clear skies and no rain and enjoyed a lovely walk followed by a welcome lunch at Joan and Mike's house.

Many thanks to Gerry for organising the walk and to Joan and Mike Benton for their hospitality in allowing us to lunch in their house. Group members provided

a great spread with mulled wine, homemade soups, cheeses, trifle and other fare; a most enjoyable start to Christmas.

Charles Thompson Mission



Our Christmas Charity donations produced amazing results again as you can see in the pictures of just some of it. Thank you all for your generosity. The Mission workers were delighted and send their sincere thanks to you all.



Last Meeting of 2018 with a very popular speaker, Mike Burgess



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 to April 2019



- January 16th – Fernand Leger Exhibition (Tate Liverpool)
- February 20th – “Every picture tells a story” Talk by Steve Cottam (Walker Art Gallery)
- March 20th - Leonardo da Vinci – Talk by Bernadette Hamilton (Sessions Room)
- April 17th – Leonardo Drawings Exhibition (Walker Art Gallery)

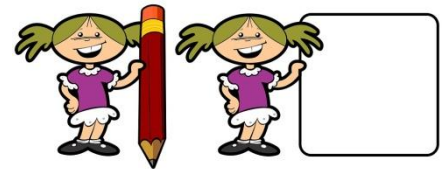


Please make a note in your diaries

Bernadette

CREATIVE WRITING

An Unusual End to a Night Out (based on two true events))



It had been a good night out, not too much to drink as money was in short supply, but we had enjoyed ourselves with lots of dancing and being chatted up by a couple of local lads. Maeve and I were in our second year of nurse training in Liverpool and we had become firm friends spending much of our free time together enjoying various adventures. It was on one of these adventures that we came across the problem.

In the 1960s student nurses lived an interesting existence which was half way between being a student and half way being an employed worker. The working week was long at 42 hours and our studies had to be undertaken in our ‘Off duty’ time. Because of this rather full schedule a night out was a once a week event. There were plenty of night clubs to choose from in Liverpool at that time but we tended to stay with the same one or two or alternatively we would go out, when we were on our days off, in the Wirral, staying out late and stopping over either at her house or mine, staying together for safety.

‘Have you had your rota for next week yet?’ Mavis asked. Her ward sister was one of the super organised people who managed to do her duty rota two weeks ahead but my ward sister was rather dilatory and we often only found out our rota a couple of days before the end of the week before.

‘It should be available later on today; I will let you know at supper.’ We were always ready to fix the next night out.

All the student nurses lived in the nurses' home and conditions were very strict. We had to be in before 11pm as that was when the door was locked. Two late passes a week until midnight were allowed. If we wanted to stay out overnight it was important not to ask for a late pass as that way the night superintendent just assumed we were all in bed. This was not as exciting as it sounds as we usually only stayed out when on our two days off a week. Living and working in the city meant that we could walk everywhere and as we were always together being out late and on foot was not a problem.

On this particular night out we were enjoying ourselves and time lost its meaning. The club was dark, the music was loud, the atmosphere vibrant. The air was thick with smoke and strobe lighting pierced the night. We strutted our stuff dressed in the latest fashion. Tight mini -skirts polo neck jumpers and white full length plastic boots completing the ensemble. Mavis was dancing with a bloke on the other side of the room from me but we were able to keep each other in view. The number finished and she was working her way across the room.

'What time is it Di?'

I had no idea but it did seem to be some time since I had looked at my watch. 'Better go upstairs, I cannot see, it is too dark in here.'

We worked our way to the top of the stairs away from the dancing in the cellar where the nightclub was. Oh bother it was nearly midnight, no late pass, no money to get home to the Wirral, and we were both due to be on early the next day, 7.30 for roll call at breakfast time.

'Mavis what on earth are we going to do?'

Now for some strange reason we both started to giggle. We had been in some difficult situations but this one took the biscuit!!! We collected our coats from the cloakroom and stumbled out into the cold night. An icy blast of air hit us as we stepped out into the street, pulling us up short and helping us to focus on the severity of the situation. It didn't seem funny anymore.

'Well Di have you got any suggestions?'

'Let's make our way back up the hill to the home I am sure I will think of something.' As my head started to clear I remembered overhearing two of the girls in our set talking about how they found themselves in a similar situation recently and their tale of how they had found a way in to the home that was unlocked.

'Well,' said Maeve, 'what is the plan then?'

'We need to climb over the railings in the side road which is the delivery entrance to and from the mortuary'

'The mortuary', Mavis squeaked, her voice barely audible.

'Yes that's right there is a passageway from there to the basement of the nurses home but we have a problem before we get there as the railings are rather high.'

We struggled over them and turned the handle on the mortuary door, yes it was unlocked. It was dark inside, very dark. We waited while our eyes adjusted to the shadowy room. A smell permeated the darkness, sickly and sweet it was an alien smell, not a dirty smell but not a clean one either. The room was cool but warmer than outside. As my eyes adjusted to the layout of the room I was busy looking for the exit. It was on the far side of the room. This appeared to be a long way away and the distance between us and the door was partly blocked by several long tables. Some of them were covered with sheets, lumpy and bumpy there was not much doubt in my mind of what was underneath them. Bodies. No surprises there as we were in the mortuary.

‘Di,’ Maeve whispered, ‘for goodness sake let’s get out of here.’

‘What do you think I am doing, I am trying to find the exit? Follow me and keep close we will be ok.’ As I took a couple of steps forward between two of the tables icy fingers gripped my arm in the darkness. ‘Good grief Maeve stop messing about and let go of my arm’.

“I am not touching you.”

I froze and time stood still. I have heard people say they could not move as they were rigid with fear, but it had never happened to me. I tried to speak but the words seemed to stick in my throat. I looked down and saw a scrawny hand gripping my arm. Don’t panic I told myself.

This was easier said than done. Now there was a chance that if I told Maeve she might well become hysterical so my next move needed to be considered carefully. While I was standing there in a suspended state I heard a whisper from under the sheet and Mavis heard it as well because the next sound was a scream from her. I moved towards the head end of the table and gingerly lifted the sheet. A pair of watery pale blue eyes looked up at me; a trembling lip formed a little smile. There was no doubt about it, the little old lady on the trolley was alive and well and I noticed still gripping my arm with a surprisingly strong grip. ‘What are you doing here then?’ I asked? A silly question really and I did not expect an answer but felt the need to say something.

The woman on the trolley was looking up at me with a desperate look in her eyes. ‘Please help me I have been here for ages and kept on shouting but nobody could hear me. Where am I?’

Before answering her I looked across at Mavis who was slumped against the wall in a half collapsed state.

‘Get a grip Maeve; we need to work out how we are going to get out of this mess’

Now what we have to remember is that our lives were very restricted as far as personal freedom was concerned and here we were in the wrong place at the wrong time with a body that was supposed to be dead but was in fact very much alive and a junior student nurse who was having a fit of the vapours. A bit of a pickle all round. It was also a time before mobile phones existed, however there was a payphone in the nurses’ home, but at that moment this seemed to be a long way away. I gave Mavis a shake and implored her to pull herself together and get a drink of water for herself and the old lady, who drank with great enthusiasm clearly she was dehydrated. I tried to reassure her that we would get some help but told her that she would have to be patient.

‘No problem lovey, I have been here for ages so a bit longer won’t do me any harm.’

Mavis had gathered her wits so we were able to put our heads together and devise a plan. The old lady was still hanging on to my arm so I had to prise her hand away in order to do what we had decided. I was going to try and find my way up to the home and use the phone to ring the hospital and report what we had found, anonymously of course. I would then make my way back to help Mavis find her way up to the home. This is what we did.

Diane Adams

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2018



A few snaps from our Christmas lunch which had a record turnout. We all enjoyed a great social occasion with good food, good service and a great atmosphere at the Prenton Golf Club. This has proved to be a really popular venue since we celebrated our tenth anniversary there. Once again, many thanks to our two Barbaras who went to a great deal of trouble to ensure a great day.

Charles Thompson Mission: Below is a print out of the letter we received from them.



CHARLES THOMPSON'S MISSION
2 Hemingford Street
Birkenhead
Wirral
CH41 4AP
Tel: 0151 647 7303

Sandra Lakin
39 Rosewood Avenue
Moreton
Wirral
CH61 6JA

12th December 2018

Dear Sandra

Thank you and the members of the U3A group so much for your very kind donations, towards the work here at Charles Thompson's Mission. With your generosity we can serve the people in our community, helping people out of poverty and transforming lives.

The weather is becoming colder as we approach Christmas and the hard Winter months. The needs of people here are so great, not just physically but in so many different ways. Opening seven days a week (now also Saturday and Sunday mornings for breakfast as well as evening meal on Mondays and Tuesdays) has enabled more people to be helped, but obviously puts more stress on our resources.

Christmas is such a busy time and we are so grateful for the many donations that come into the Mission. We make Christmas parcels for children of families who are struggling, help out with Christmas hampers, put on Christmas meals and events - all of which can only happen because of your support.

Things are never at a standstill at the Mission. It's always work in progress. so thank you for making it happen.

Yours sincerely,

BF
pp

Bernie Frost
Centre Manager

Registered Charity No. 223366

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

AND FINALLY, the Committee would like to thank you all for your response to the Charles Thompson Mission donations; it was really magnificent and they were so grateful. A lot of people will have had a much happier Christmas due to your generosity. Our Chairman would like you all start to consider nominations for the ongoing Committee in advance of our AGM. And all of us wish you all a very happy New Year.

elianedavie@hotmail.co.uk

Eliane Davie Editor

