



September Newsletter



CHAIRMAN'S MUSINGS

Greetings Fellow Oxton and Prenton U3A Members and: welcome back after the summer break.

How was it for you?

I generally find that the August break never works out as I plan or expect and this August has been no exception. I tend to look upon August as a time when, with a whole month free of commitments and imperatives, I can do a bit of catching up; after all, most people in August are otherwise engaged so one can claim a little time for one-self.

Ushka, Monica's guide dog, chose this month in which to terminate her incarnation. This was quite unexpected and left us somewhat bewildered and confused; Monica especially. We have also and equally unexpectedly, decided to move, and the house is now on the market; would prospective purchasers please form an orderly queue. Needless to say we are not really ready for this event.

If I appear to be even more distracted than usual when we next meet, please make allowances.

But life is nothing if not interesting. Someone said that it is what happens whilst we are making plans to do something entirely different. Our 'plans' become subservient to unexpected main events. I have noticed though that people who plan a great deal and are determined to have their way can generate a great deal of tension, both for themselves and those around them. I value greatly the Ancient Chinese analogy of water, which always finds a way. If no such way presents itself it can always evaporate and fall somewhere else entirely. I really like the idea of evaporating. It is something I need to work on. Water, in doing nothing other than being itself, has tremendous power and authority and can take on countless different and original ways of interacting within the global ecology, each exchange and interaction being specific and original to each individual case. Our attempts to impose a human sense of need and order on water can, at times, prove disastrous.

We human beings, on the other hand, tend to group, label and categorise each other, seeking standard responses in order to avoid having to be fully alive to each individual case; though in our U3A Philosophy and Debating Groups we tend to discover that fixed responses are illusive and impractical in the face of individual needs and cases.

We are entering the final quarter of a year in which fluidity, adaptability, creativity and ingenuity will all be needed in abundance if we are to stay sane and maintain integrity: but then we are quite good at that in the U3A.

Brian Gill

Chairman

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA 12th SEPTEMBER 2019 TO 21ST NOVEMBER 2019

If you cannot do a duty, please ring me, JOAN BENTON, ON 608 6226

12TH September 2019

Ursula Cook

Margaret Cullen

Paul Cullen



24th September 2019

Joyce Roberts

Jean Skillicorn

Beryl Davies

10th October 2019

Doreen Alig

Corinne Whitham

Valerie Edwards



24th October 2019

Dorothy Mathews

Barbara Baker

Kathy Sullivan

7th November 2019

Sylvia Hunt

Ann Jou

Brenda George

21st November 2019

Marion Jackson

Barbara Riley

Judith Wheat



What an optimist I am! I am still hopeful of finding more volunteers. Please ring me (Joan Benton) on 608 6226 if you would like to offer your services.

LUNCH GROUP

Dates up to Christmas: Meet at 12.45 for 1pm

September 17th 2019 The Refreshment Rooms

October 15th 2019 the Queens Arms

November 19th 2019 the Shippons

In December the Christmas Dinner takes the place of the lunch group.



COLIN STREDDER

SPECIAL TEA OUTING AT SHELDRAKE'S, HESWALL

A large group of around thirty members enjoyed a very special tea at Sheldrake's Restaurant on July 16th. Commencing unusually with a cup of spicy soup followed by assorted sandwiches, cream and jam filled scones, cakes and sparkling proscetto, we all spent a very jolly afternoon which we completed with tea and coffee served outside overlooking the Dee. Many thanks to Colin Streddar who organized it.



Ed.



NOTES OF ACTIVITIES AT NON- SPEAKER MEETINGS

- 29TH August 2019 Community banking: advice on scams.
- 26th September 2019 Heswall Disabled Childrens' Holiday Fund.
- 24th October 2019 Quiz by Colin.
- 21st November 2019 Brian's play – "Whatever Happened to Baby Dalling"

More information later.

Colin Streddar

SPEAKERS 2019

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.

Colin Stredder

CREATIVE WRITING



NOTE: Monica Price, who leads the Creative Writing Group, has space for about four more members. The group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2pm – 4pm. Enquiries to Monica on 200 2728

The Greatest Trousers Creative Writing Group

Nothing could have been more normal than that particular day last April. A routine situation, an ordinary day, an everyday clothing store, a run-of-the-mill set of people, unexceptional weather, just a straightforward, typical, standard, even boring day. Nothing would happen. It would be forgotten along with many other days, it would be unremembered, unremarkable, a footnote in history, a highly forgettable period in time. One of those days that if you hadn't made a diary entry, it would have totally disappeared from memory. Or so thought Clarence as he wandered into 'Smartypants'; the high street clothing emporium specialising in trousers and jeans.

At 64, and recently retired, but single following the angry walk-out by his last live-in girlfriend, (I say 'girlfriend', but she was scarcely a girl, and at the end of it, not really a friend), appalled by his sub-standard personal hygiene and monstrous fashion choices (Harry Hill shirt, baggy hippy sweater, greasy jeans and smelly Poundland trainers)

Clarence knew that he needed new trousers. He had heard that Hugh Jackman, the chunky star of 'The Greatest Showman' had been associated with the design of a new line of skinny jeans by the store and he resolved to borrow a slice of Jackman's magic. He loved the film and had seen it on a number of occasions. In his own mind, he modelled himself on the great Hugh, except that he couldn't sing, dance or play the piano and didn't have anything like Jackman's sculpted body. But, hey, one can but dream, he said to himself, starting off with the trousers.

Not sure of modern styles and fit, Clarence picked out a pair of slim-fit Jackman jeans and took them into the changing room. They were a kind of purple and brown shade, and had the trade name 'Ober Jeans', clever idea, thought Clarence. These classy jeans will wow them at the next U3A social night. Hanging up his faded baggy trousers in the cubicle, he struggled to get into the Jackman specials and ended up in a kind of no man's land, with jeans half on and half off, when suddenly the fire alarm went off like a demented banshee.

Then an urgent voice screamed over the Tannoy: 'Evacuate the Store immediately! This is a real fire and not a false alarm. Go immediately to the nearest fire exit.' In a wild panic, Clarence struggled with the ultra-tight garments but could not move them in any direction, up or down, leaving his voluminous off-white boxer shorts in public view. In the excitement and panic, Clarence found he couldn't move and was eventually bundled out into the street by a courageous security guard, past the smouldering underpants department, who then dumped him outside Anne Summers, where he found himself helplessly staring at window models scantily attired in pink. He heard the urgent klaxon of the fire engine as they arrived at the store, plus the different pitch of a couple of police cars rushing to the scene. As an officer arrived, an elderly female passer-by with a purple rinse on a Zimmer frame said to the officer: 'Arrest this demented pervert. He's standing there with his pants down looking at the scantily dressed models in the window. That sort needs to be locked up for good.'

'Now then, Sir.' said a very young looking police woman. 'You will have to accompany me to the station. You've got some explaining to do'.

'It's not what you think.' protested Clarence.

'They all say that. You disgusting creep' said the Zimmer woman.

‘But, but, but’ spluttered Clarence.

‘Just get into the car’ ordered the female police officer, who, to Clarence, looked about fourteen. Then Clarence had the indignity of having his head gently patted into the police car. He wished he had a blanket to put over his head, or even over his off-white boxer shorts. Having been helped into the police car, he started to feel numb below the waist as the tight trousers started to stifle his circulation.

Once he reached the station, he had to, not run, but stumble the gauntlet past a drunken group of football fans who were being charged in the police station for disorderly behaviour. ‘Really like your off-white boxer shorts’ said one of them.

‘Talk about sparrows’ ankles’ said another, seeing Clarence’s spindly pink legs. They then all started singing the ‘Stripper’ theme, surprisingly in three part harmony. No doubt a song they had practised at football matches to accompany the occasional stalker. In fact, the lone stalker at a recent FA Cup match had been the high spot of the season before relegation to the Northern Spartan League.

‘I need to get these trousers off me.’ said Clarence to the matronly duty officer, Sergeant Mavis Pemberton.

They both struggled to no avail, so she produced a pair of scissors and cut the trousers off his legs. ‘I’ll get you a pair of regulation grey tracksuit bottoms. You’ll look like an elderly young offender.’ She giggled.

Clarence gloomily surveyed the remains of the Hugh Jackman super slinky trousers, which he realised he would have to pay for. Then he absently minded looked through the pockets. ‘Look at this!’ he said to Sergeant Mavis. ‘It looks as if I have won a free ticket to a big Hugh Jackman concert at the Birmingham arena, a dinner with Hugh and a big bag of ‘The Greatest Entertainer Goodies.’

After a further discussion with Sergeant Mavis, Clarence was able to explain the circumstances of his embarrassing arrest and he was not charged. ‘Smarty pants’ did not expect him to pay for the pants and actually gave him a pair of ‘Boris Johnson’ signature BREXITEER trousers in blue, with massively adequate leg and bottom room.

Later that month, Clarence travelled down to Birmingham by Virgin Rail, booked in at the Hyatt Hotel and spent a fantastic evening with a group of competition winners, watching the show, meeting Hugh Jackman and the cast and having a slap up meal at Nandos.

Later in the week, Clarence prepared for the U3A Social evening. He stood in front of the mirror with his Boris Johnson trousers and a new shirt, the Jeremy Hunt Airline Pilot shirt, given to him by Smartyshirts, a sister company of Smarty Pants. He might not be the greatest showman, but his new outfit would outsmart most of the U3A attendees, who dressed mainly from the local Age UK charity shop during the annual sale. Even the remand tracksuit bottoms had proved useful as he lost weight attending the U3A fitness group. ‘Outsize Olympians’. All it needed now was to knock the Greatest Showman songs into shape at, you’ve guessed it, the U3A singing group (Swinging Seniors) and he would be able to relaunch himself on the dating scene. He would start by downloading the Tinder app, but would it work on a phone as big as a brick?

Robin Thomas

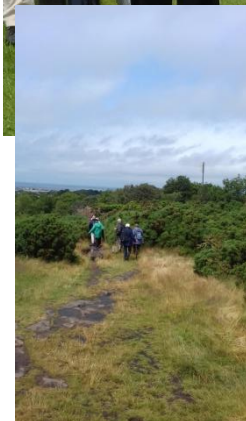
WALKING GROUP

A circular walk round West Kirby and Caldy Hill, led by Judith Wylie and Eliane Davie, started in pouring rain; however thirteen intrepid souls bravely faced the elements! We paused for coffee at Tasker’s on West Kirby promenade to decide on whether or not to continue with the complete walk. It proved a jolly break and we decided to make our



final decision on reaching the bottom of Caldry Hill, by which time thankfully the rain had stopped and we chose to carry on as planned. It was Paul Cullen's birthday we discovered, hence the solo photo! Sadly Margaret was unable to join him this time as she has broken her wrist but I gather that celebrations were to be on the following day with all the family. We all wished her a speedy recovery and Paul an enjoyable birthday. The walk finished with lunch at the Ring O' Bells pub where Judith's husband joined us.

Ed.



ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Dates for U3A Art Appreciation Group meetings.
All meetings in Trinity Session room start at 10.15a.m. unless
otherwise stated:
Here is our programme to November 2019

NO MEETING IN AUGUST 2019

Wednesday September 18th 2019: visit to the Tate Gallery, Liverpool. Meet in foyer at 10.45 am.

Constellations, Interactive Exhibition of work by W. Kandinsky.

Wednesday October 16th 2019: In Session Room start at 10.15 am.

Matisse talk - Bernadette leads.

Wednesday November 20th 2019: Matisse Exhibition: Drawing With Scissors.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER



Please make a note in your diaries

Bernadette Hamilton

THEATRE OUTINGS

SOCIAL OUTING

NOW BOOKING!!!!

See menu below

2019 CHRISTMAS LUNCH
PRENTON GOLF CLUB
Golf Links Road, PRENTON, CH42 8LW
THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER
12.00 noon for 12.30pm
3 Courses £26.50



CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

Starters

Broccoli & Stilton Soup

Plaice Goujons + chilli sauce

Farmhouse Pate

Mains

Roast Turkey

Roast Lamb

Seabass + watercress sauce

Veg Brie Crumble

Desserts

Christmas pud

Meringue nests + fruit

Profiteroles + chocolate sauce

Cheese & Biscuits

and

Coffee

THEATRE

LES MISERABLES
EMPIRE Theatre
Tuesday 15 OCTOBER @ 7.30pm
Tickets available for collection



NEW

AMELIE - The Musical
Liverpool Playhouse
Monday 14 October @ 7.30pm
Tickets £22
Available to book 29 August & 12 September only



THE NUTCRACKER
This year's English National Ballet production
Liverpool Empire
Thursday 28 November @ 2.30pm
Tickets £31.50



THE KING & I
Liverpool Empire
Thursday 19 March 2020 @ 2.30pm
Tickets £35



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

The Art Appreciation Group at the Williamson Art Gallery in August



An excellent turn out at the Williamson for coffee and to view the Iron Exhibition, (on the left), proved an interesting insight into the timeline and development of the steel industry in Birkenhead and the connection with the growth of the Cammel Laird shipyard and the railway. The group was also very impressed by an exhibition of the Sixth Form work of Calday Grammar School, (a corner of which is shown on the R.) which displayed a wonderful amount of talent and technique. The Gallery is always worth a visit and has a really “alive” feel to it. The café, (see centre), is also an excellent venue. Many thanks to Bernadette and Gutta who organized the morning.



Congratulations and best wishes to Brenda and Leslie George who celebrated their 60th Wedding Anniversary on August 15th!

Group Leaders!

Film Group and Craft Group

Meetings of these groups are currently suspended.

If you are a member of one of these groups could you take over as group leader?

Is there anyone else who would like to volunteer to lead either of these groups?

Please contact Tony Swarbrick or Eve Felton

groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk

OUTING ORGANISER

So far no one has come forward to take over the important job of organising outings, which is a part of our U3A that we have hitherto all enjoyed. Until we have a volunteer (or volunteers) to take over this position there can be no more outings, other than theatre ones which Barbara Lloyd will continue to organise. Barbara has reiterated that she will help and advise anyone willing to take it on and has suggested that perhaps someone might like to try one outing initially to see how it goes. Anyone interested should inform a committee member.

Ed.

AND FINALLY

Here we are, holidays over for many of us and back to our U3A and our September newsletter! I do hope that you all enjoyed the summer and some very tropical weather. As I shall be away for a short break in early September I would be grateful if anyone who has contributions for the next newsletter could let me have them as early as possible. My thanks to those whose efforts help keep me supplied with material.



Eliane Davie
Editor

ARA

