

# June Newsletter

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I would like to begin by thanking Brian Gill, our outgoing Chairman and Sandra Lakin, our outgoing Secretary for all their hard work and dedication in helping to make our Oxton, Prenton & District U3A the success it has become. They will be missed by everyone. Fortunately for me with their experience and expertise they will be close at hand to help and guide me in the coming months when needed, which could be quite often!!

I would also like to give a special thank you to Eliane Davie who has, even through the most difficult of times during this Pandemic, managed to keep us informed and together through our U3A newsletters. Thanks also to all who contributed.

Since becoming Chairman my post as Speaker Secretary has been taken on by Colin Stredder. What better choice for a Speaker Secretary.

Unfortunately as you may have noticed, I have not been gifted with Brian Gill's art of dissertation.

Looking forward we are hoping to commence our Thursday morning twice monthly meetings in September, (dates to be announced) providing all goes well and it is safe to do so. It will be wonderful to be amongst our missed friends once again.

**Alan Harding – Chairman**

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## April 29<sup>th</sup> Oxton & Prenton U3A ANNUAL AGM

### The New Committee is as Follows:

Treasurer	- Ken Jackson
Business Secretary	- Elizabeth Harding
Membership Secretary	- Gwyneth Williams
Groups Co-ordinator	- Tony Swarbrick
Speaker Secretary	- Colin Stredder
Theatre Events Sec.	- Barbara Lloyd
Newsletter Editor	- Eliane Davie

Deputy Groups' Co-ordinator- Eve Felton

The Committee would like to thank all those who attended the AGM and for your casting votes. We are still short of one committee member and would like to hear from anyone who would consider joining the Committee.

We would also like to thank our retiring Chairman, Brian Gill for all his work during his tenure. He retired for health reasons and will no longer be able to lead his Groups which include Psychology and Meditation. Those who attended these groups will really miss the sessions and we all wish him improved health and hope to see him back amongst us when we reopen. He joins the select band of Chairmen Past

The Committee would also like to extend our thanks to Sandra Laker who has been a tower of strength to our U3A, both as another Chairman Past and more recently when she filled in as temporary Secretary for Marese, who moved away to be nearer family. Sandra, as most of you will know has been undertaking treatment for cancer and was only able to do this whilst meetings were on line, due to hospital appointments. She assures us that she is feeling well and we all wish her improving health and look forward to seeing her soon.

A Zoom Committee Meeting was held on May 27<sup>th</sup> when, amongst many subjects, recruiting more members from recently retired or semi retired people, was discussed. If you know of anyone in this group who might be interested in our activities, we are thinking that a meeting where you are invited to 'bring a friend' might be worth trying! Please let us know what your thoughts are regarding this idea. We need to find members who will gradually take on the jobs of Committee as sadly, we all age!

We will hopefully be able to return to our usual meeting venue at the church hall in September but as yet have not got a definite date. The vicar is waiting to see what



arises at the next important date in coming out of lockdown around June 21<sup>st</sup>; we will of course keep you posted. At the moment we are hoping to be able to meet on September 16<sup>th</sup> but as this is not yet certain, watch this space!

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## News from Joan Parfect

Friends of Joan will be glad to hear that she has left hospital and is now back at home. She sounded chirpy on the phone last week and has been enjoying reading some excellent poetry written by Phoebe Hesketh, who was the mother of our own Martin Hesketh. Martin had a book of her poetry published and sent a copy to Joan who is a member of his Poetry Group.

Joan sends her best wishes to all her friends and is managing her recuperation well with some help. She would love to hear from them as she is somewhat tied to her home at the moment as her mobility recovers.

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## This letter was sent to me recently and might interest some of you – it is genuine. Ed.

‘I hope you are well, I was wondering if your branch of U3A currently have an email newsletter in circulation and whether you accept submissions for it? I am currently looking for participants for a new property TV series and was wondering if we might be able to share our casting call with your members?

I am an Assistant Producer at Raise The Roof Productions, one of the UK's leading producers of property TV series in the UK. We are currently working on the second series of *My Mortgage Free Home*, presented by Amanda Lamb, broadcasting on HGTV.

We're taking applications now from homeowners around the UK who are looking to sell their current property, with the aim of going mortgage free, perhaps because they are now retiring or have an empty nest and are looking for a new amazing home for the next stage of their lives. Amanda will help a number of individuals, couples and families on their property search, helping them to find their dream mortgage free home.

To be eligible to be considered for the programme, applicants must own their home, with some remaining mortgage debt left to pay off. It may be of interest to members of your branch of U3A that are perhaps downsizing, or have family members who have been working further afield but are now looking to move to be closer to their parents or grandparents.

Please find our casting flyer attached with some more information. If you have any other questions, I will of course be happy to answer. Please do feel free to pass our casting flyer on to anyone you know that might be interested.

All the very best,  
Larissa



Larissa Moran  
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A promotional flyer for the TV series 'My Mortgage Free Home'. The top half features a woman, Amanda Lamb, standing in front of a thatched-roof house. The title 'MY MORTGAGE FREE HOME' is prominently displayed in large, white, sans-serif capital letters, with a small house icon above the word 'MORTGAGE'. Below the image, the text reads: 'Property expert Amanda Lamb is back to help those dreaming of going mortgage free in a new series of My Mortgage Free Home for HGTV'. A blue box contains the text: 'Whether you're planning on swapping busy urban life for the idyllic countryside or are determined to ditch the debt and spend more time with loved ones, we are all ears. If you are ready to pack up, sell on and look to a brighter future being mortgage free then please get in touch with Raise the Roof productions on: mortgage@raisetherooftproductions.com'. At the bottom, a small disclaimer states: 'Please note that to apply you must own your own home. All communications will take place remotely and we will conduct any initial interviews over telephone or video call. We do not need to visit your home at the moment and any filming that takes place will be in adherence to government guidelines. We welcome applications from all sections of the community. Please click on our privacy policy for more information about how we process your data: http://raisetherooftproductions.com/information/privacy/'.

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**Sadly as these delightful photos show, two of the latest signets  
have not survived.**



**Photos by Corinne; taken in  
Birkenhead Park on May 22<sup>nd</sup> 2021**



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**Some reminders of times before Covid - they will happen  
again!**







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## BOOK GROUPS

**Monica Price** is still running her book group on line.

**Judith Whaley** will be contacting her Book Group shortly regarding the resumption of meetings soon.



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## ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Bernadette has recommended some interesting talks about a selection of paintings and painters to be found on line.

[nationalgallery.org.uk/events/courses](https://nationalgallery.org.uk/events/courses)

Bernadette will be contacting her group soon with a view to planning some outings to galleries during the summer; probably July when she hopes to be completely recovered from the fall that left her with a broken wrist and shoulder. We wish her a speedy recovery.



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## BRIDGE GROUPS

Tony Swarbrick would like anyone interested in joining on-line Zoom groups for Bridge during this time to e-mail him at: [groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk) this works quite well and started up during lockdown; Tony will explain and advise on how to go about it. He will soon be contacting all group leaders to plan the reopening of groups.



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## WALKING GROUP

Gerry Riley will be contacting members of the Walking Group soon regarding restarting group walks during the summer. At present up to sixteen are able to walk together following Covid rules but after June 17<sup>th</sup> we should be able to eat as well. He would like to find out how many are interested with a view to organising one in July.



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Most of the groups are waiting for June 21<sup>st</sup> to see what, if any, restrictions remain in force after this date. By then we should be in a much better position to make firm plans.

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## Taken on my last holiday inn Sri Lanka 2019



Ed.



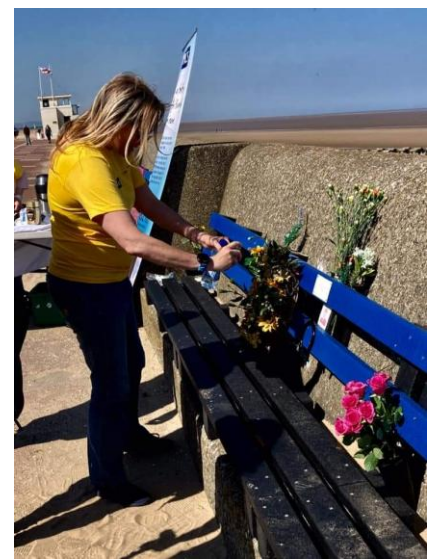


**Pauline Horner has been enjoying a short break in the Lake District: as always she took her sketchbook!**



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**Corinne Whitham and Valerie Edwards in New Brighton to support Gina's Memorial Walk for her brother reaching the last mile! (100mls a week for 52 weeks)**





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## ***AND FINALLY.....***

What an up and down eighteen months it's been; strange and debilitating for most, tragic for some. It has sometimes seemed endless as the virus has carried our hopes up and down, destroying weddings, celebrations, holidays, schooldays, family life and even funerals and church services. BUT we are so fortunate to have this amazing vaccine distribution, possible only with the efforts and talents of so many people, giving us a path towards eventual freedom.



It has been so good this last couple of weeks to have been able to meet friends, to share a meal together and to tentatively start to plan again. At long last the weather is warming and flowers are starting to bloom as the spirits lift.

So I wish you all a much happier summer and please don't forget to send me news of your adventures – at least the happy ones!



**Eliane Davie - Editor**







