

June Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

On the 28th April 2022 we had our AGM. The highlight being the proposal by Tony Swarbrick, of the election of Sandra Lakin to become our First Honorary President. This was unanimously seconded by all in attendance. A just reward for all the work Sandra has contributed to our U3A both past and present. Fortunately for me she still finds time to do the power point and give me good advice when I need it!

I should also like to take this opportunity of thanking Tony Swarbrick for the help and support he has given me during the many meetings we have had. His help and experience is invaluable.

A further thanks to all Committee Members for their support and Friendship. It is so much appreciated.

As you will know Barbara Lloyd, who organised our Theatre outings etc. and served the committee in so many roles, so well for so many years has reached the end of her Tenure. She would prefer not to seek re election. We therefore require someone to join the Committee and help regarding this role. To quote a certain Supermarket, "Every Little Helps".

Ken Jackson's post as treasurer has been filled by Margaret Cullen: many thanks Margaret.

I would also like to express my thanks to Ken for all the many years he held the post.

We have all endured a difficult 2 years but are returning slowly to normal. There has been a decline in Membership which in the circumstances you may expect. Though, on the positive side, we have been able to welcome a number of new Members.

Groups have decreased significantly, a trend which we would like to reverse. With your help we can do so. We would welcome feedback regarding the starting of new groups and the expanding of existing ones.

We will shortly be devoting a meeting to explore this, together with the possibility of organising trips and outings.

The Big Question, what would you like from your U3A? And let us make it happen!

Now, on a lighter note:

On the 20th July 1969, as commander of the Apollo 11 Lunar Module, Neil Armstrong was the 1st person to set foot on the Moon. His first words after stepping on the Moon, "That is one small step for Man, one giant leap for Mankind", were televised to Earth and heard by millions. But, just before he re-entered the Lander, he made the enigmatic remark "Good Luck, Mr Gorsky". Many people at NASA thought it was a casual remark concerning some rival Soviet Cosmonaut. However, upon checking, there was no Gorsky in either The Russian or American Space Programs. Over the years, many people questioned Armstrong as to what the "Good luck Mr Gorsky", statement meant, but Armstrong always just smiled.

On the 5th of July 1995 in Tampa Bay Florida, while answering questions following a speech, a reporter brought up the 26 year old question about Mr Gorsky and this time he finally responded because his "Mr Gorsky" had just died, so Neil Armstrong felt he could answer the question.

Here is the answer to "Who was Mr Gorsky?"

In 1938 when he was a lad in a small Midwestern Town he was playing baseball with a friend in the back garden. His friend hit the ball which landed in his neighbour's garden by their bedroom window. His neighbours were Mr & Mrs Gorsky. As he bent down to pick up the ball, young Armstrong heard Mrs Gorsky shouting out at Mr Gorsky, "Sex! You want sex?! You'll get sex when that kid next door walks on the Moon!"

The place fell about laughing. Neil Armstrong's family confirmed this story is true.

Kind Regards,

Alan Harding - Chairman

BRIAN'S MUSINGS

Many of us are concerned about the degree of political turbulence occurring around the world at this time. People with power and influence are driven by the need to survive; motivated by ideologies and paradigms and invariably supported by divine authority; they easily justify their need to impose their world view on others who might see things quite differently. Those who do not or cannot comply are soon identified as 'The Enemy', or even as being 'evil' and are likely to be killed off.

There is a well tried adage in psychology to the effect that if we would change the world and by extension any or all the people in it, one must first change oneself. This goes much deeper than behaviour or even morality. It involves identifying the dark and regressive aspects common to the collective psyche of humanity - in oneself. This is not as difficult to do as one might imagine. It is certainly easy to recognise cases in which one is cast as the victim.

When someone 'phones me in the evening and spends the next hour and a half aggressively down-loading a litany of all the wrongs she is suffering, my space has been invaded and my psyche has been laid waste. I come out of the event devastated and totally devoid of energy. My evening is in ruins. I am not such a

person's therapist. Healing is not part of their agenda. They are looking only for compliance and justification. Feelings of self-righteous rage are like fire-storms needing to be fed and they will feed on anything or anyone that comes to hand.

There is, of course a whole range of emotions that rely on our fellow human beings to maintain: self-pity, self-importance, religious sentiments, intolerance, fear, insecurity, greed and so on. The list is quite extensive and affects us as effectively as any pandemic, though we never refer to them as such. No one ever tells us that there is a nasty pandemic or fear and greed going about at the moment, with suitable advice as to how we might best cope with it. We have been advised recently that self-isolation helps to limit the spread of a virus. If the person who indulges in self-righteous anger for an hour and a half on the 'phone were to self-isolate the problem would go no further, though they might themselves remain stuck with it.

When it comes to identifying these energy consuming characteristics in oneself the task is a little harder, mainly because we are reluctant to do so. It involves recognising 'the enemy' in oneself. When I try to impose my ideologies, paradigms and regimes on others uninvited, that is an invasion. If only for a moment I am a dictator. When I become angry or frustrated it is a sure sign that my inner dictator is displeased, when weak and debilitated or sorry for myself, then it is likely that my dictator has been deprived of power and motivation.

Jung made the point that the ego works, inexorably, towards its own isolation and demise; (history tends to support this view with multiple examples) He was of the opinion that a third-world-war could only be avoided if enough people came to recognise this and were able to locate 'the enemy' in their own psyche. Now of course, it is a great deal more serious than the threat of a world war as the destruction of the entire planet as a suitable environment for humanity is involved. Clearly the solution to our collective insecurity cannot lie in aggressive, tribalistic greed. We have been trying that strategy for a few thousand years. Only when our deep personal fears give way to an intense and living recognition of our connectivity with each other and with the planet will we look for real solutions.

Meanwhile one can be sorting oneself out. Interesting

Brian Gill

Meetings 2022 Social

June 23rd: Tony Storey will talk about Covid 19 and its effects on the Cruise industry

July 21st: DVD: The Mersey Tunnel - 60years

Speakers (so far) 2022

June 9th 2022

Keith Warrender. - Dunham Massey Ship Canal.



July 7th 2022

Philip Caine -

Barrow to Bagdad

THANK YOU

Hello Everyone

I would just like to say how thrilled and honoured I was to be voted in as Honorary President of Oxton, Prenton & District U3A, at our AGM in April. I really appreciated this honour and although I am not able to attend meetings at the moment, I really enjoy doing the Meeting Power Points and am always happy to help out in any way that I can.

The flowers that were presented to me are still flowering profusely after almost three weeks!! I think of you all every time I look at them. Thank you all so very much.

Oxton & Prenton U3A has always held a huge place in my life and rescued me when I arrived in The Wirral as a friendless stranger. I know times are very difficult with our U3A since the pandemic but I sincerely hope you will all hang on in there and give the present Committee and Officers your support so that eventually it will become again the successful much appreciated Group it once was.

Good luck, to Alan, Elizabeth and Tony and all our Committee members, they are all working so very hard for your benefit.

Thank you all very much,

Sandra Lakin

Art Appreciation Group Led by Bernadette Hamilton

Our next meeting will be on Wednesday 15th June 10.30am at The Walker Art Gallery Liverpool where we will view The Tudors: Passion, Power and Politics Exhibition.

This is a paying exhibition costing £11 for a group concession ticket.
Free to members.

Please let me know ASAP if you would like to come.

I would also appreciate it if you could pay me in advance as I have to pay the gallery when I confirm the booking.

I will be at the U3A meeting next Thursday (9th June) Don't worry if you won't see me to pay in advance just let me have your name to add to the list and I'll book you in.

Best wishes,
Bernadette

Our thanks to Bernadette for all the work she does in organising these visits.

GROUP NEWS A Book and a Glass of Wine: Judith Whale



Meet on last Thursday of month. The group is full at the moment, but vacancies may occur if all do not return.

Amateur Astronomy

Paul Cullen, Judith Wylie



Paul will inform members of what events to watch out for.

Bridge:

Tony Swarbrick, Joan Parfect bridge@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Meetings will be in "The Cabin" at Trinity. Meetings on 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays each month, 10.30a.m. to 12. We meet to play friendly relaxed bridge, Joan and myself are on hand to offer advice to less experienced players and from time to time offer "teaching" sessions for people new to Bridge.



Book Club: Mary O'Neill

Meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm. Mary has room for one or two more members; anyone interested should contact Tony Swarbrick our Group Co-ordinator.



Lunch Circle: Colin Stredder

The next Lunch Circle meeting will be at the Dibbinsdale (Pesto), Rabymere at 12.45 for 1pm lunch on June 21st



Music Appreciation:

Paul Cullen

Meeting Wednesday June 1st in the Session Room at 2-4pm. Bring a favourite CD with you; it doesn't need to be classical!

There will be no meetings in July and August – return in September.



Walking Group: See below.



Rummikub:

2nd and 3rd Wednesday of the month from 10.15 - 12 noon in the Cabin. There is a charge of £2 pp to cover room rental and coffee.



Books and Jigsaws



Thank you everyone for thinning down the books and jigsaw collections; they are at a much more manageable number now and we can return to bringing in books and jigsaws for exchange again. In the interest of not getting stock in excess of storage space again, please keep to only bringing the number of books that you take – it seems to work really well!

Friendly Ear



If you know of any member who is sick, in hospital or in need of a friendly chat please let Mary Hamilton or Dot Matthews know. They will contact them to see whether they need help and send cards (where applicable).

Lunch Circle

June 21st The Dibbinsdale Inn (Pesto), Bromborough. Meet 12.45pm for 1pm lunch.

Tea and Coffee Rota

9 th June	Barbara Baker
	Kathy Sullivan
23 rd June	Dorothy Mathews
	Ellen Wilson
	Brenda George
7 th July	Wendy Devonald
	Lorraine Molyj
	Joan Beedles

Art Appreciation Group

June 15th –

"The Tudors: Passion, Power and Politics"

Exhibition at the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool

July 20th –

"Raphael"

Talk by Bernadette Hamilton

in the Session Room at Trinity with Palm Grove Church

Bernadette Hamilton



Walking Group

Date: Thursday 30th June

Led By: Ken Jackson

Meet at: Port Sunlight Station at 10.15 for 10.30 start (toilets are available!!)

Route: 5 miles from Port Sunlight Station, via cycleway to Stadium Rd, through Brotherton Park, Dibbinsdale and Marfords Park then on to Bromborough for lunch.

Lunch: Merebrook Pub at Bromborough. Station is next door for return home or to car at PS.

Other Info: 1. Ken has Menu, and pre-ordering is recommended to speed-up service.

2. You might wish to bring a torch for the tunnel!!

3. If you prefer a slightly longer walk, Ken will include a stroll around PS village at the start



Please let Tony Swarbrick know if you will be walking.

groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk

The July walk will be led by Judith Wylie and Eliane Davie, further details later.

SUMMER SCHOOL 2022

Bookings are again being taken for the Summer School at the University of Cumbria at the Fusehill Campus, Carlisle, CAI 2HH. This is organised by the North West Region and has always had excellent reports. For further information regarding courses available contact Tony Swarbrick:

groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk

events@u3asites.org.uk

The next U3A meeting at TWPG is on June 9th.

The Art Appreciation Group visited the Tate Gallery in Liverpool on May 18th and enjoyed an interesting morning: by Pauline Horner

On Wednesday 18th March the group visited the current exhibition at Tate Liverpool, "Radical Landscapes". We had mixed feelings about the title – does radical indicate interesting? Outlandish? Very modern? Installations rather than paintings? All these thoughts went through our minds and discussions over coffee. We were pleasantly surprised when we finally saw the exhibition.

It addressed a range of ideas about landscape, the environment and green issues over the years. On entering we were greeted with a famous painting by John Constable, but it was placed immediately beside a barrage of loud TVs on scaffolding showing the protests at Greenham Common in the last century. Other topics were the ban the bomb protests in the 50s and 60s and then to earlier protests of the Tolpuddle Martyrs in the 19th century.

The theme throughout was appreciation and access to the landscape in various countries. One beautiful painting depicted a gate prohibiting access to lush scenery in the Caribbean.

The familiar photograph of an atomic bomb exploding had been manipulated to appear as a skull. Another exhibit, a large, tactile sculpture by Henry Moore also used the theme of a skull.

An installation called 'Some intimacy' by Davinia-Ann Robinson used both clay items and the sounds of a poem to express the artist's feelings about landscape. Two further installations used film and one referred to the discovery of the open landscape by many people during Lockdowns in 2020.

We were surprised by the conclusion at one exhibit that, even nowadays, we are free to roam on only 8% of the land in this country.

Double Grille 2008 by H Anderson

Oil paint on canvas:

This seemingly abstract painting depicts the security grilles found around properties in Jamaica where Anderson's parents were born. Anderson, who was born in Birmingham, often uses his work to explore his feelings of dislocation arising from his experience of being positioned between two different places and cultures. This painting also reflects the privatisation and enclosed land, as the fencing prohibits access to the verdant scene in the background,

Ban the Bomb – Atom bomb and a skull

Henry Moore

Atom Piece (Working Model for Nuclear Energy) 1964-5, cast 1965

Bronze

Atom Piece is an apparent modernist celebration of the power of the atom bomb, sculpted after Harold Wilson was celebrating the white heat of technology. Yet look more closely at Moore's sculpture, and beneath the metallic exterior, the helmet-like shape of a skull emerges. The British government did not yet wish to admit the full horror of what a domestic nuclear strike would mean, but Moore - a founding member of the Campaign for Nuclear Disarmament in 1958 - would have been all too familiar with events at Hiroshima in 1945 and what this could mean for the British landscape.

Adaptation of Constable's Haywain

Peter Kennard

Haywain with Cruise Missiles 1980

Chromolithograph on paper and photographs on paper

Kennard's Haywain with Cruise Missiles is a fantastic piece of pastiche propaganda, highlighting the absurdity of nuclear war and the incongruity of placing modern weapons capable of exterminating civilisation in the leafy fastness of the Home Counties. John Constable's original hay cart (The Haywain 1821), which once brought fodder for livestock, has now become a vehicle for transporting mega-death. The fact that it appears bogged down in the landscape is also appropriate: the convoys bringing the cruise missiles to Greenham Common were tracked by protestors who lay down in front of them to hinder their progress.

One installation

Davinia-Ann Robinson

Some intimacy 2022

Clay, audio

Robinson works across sculpture, sound, writing and performance. Her work explores Black, Brown and Indigenous relationships to land through what she terms 'colonial nature environments'. This takes the form of floor-based sculptures, often using salvaged soil or clay shaped directly by the artist; some intimacy features a poem spoken in different dialects which meditates on the ideas of composting and regeneration, and the ways in which the individual and collective body ultimately returns to the earth.

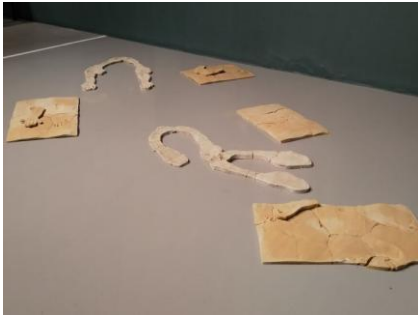


Group enjoying coffee at the Tate

Flatford Mill by J. Constable

PAULINE HORNER





Davinia-Ann Robinson



Henry Moore Sculpture



Photos by Pauline Horner



REMEMBER THE DAY THE TIDE SWEEPED OVER NEW BRIGHTON PROMENADE?



And finally.....

Having only arrived home from my break in Madeira on Monday evening (30th), it has been rather a rush to get the June Newsletter to you and I must apologise for it being a little later than usual.

After two and a half years without a holiday, like many of us I imagine, it was a real joy to have a change of scenery and Madeira is certainly a beautiful place to visit. It is also a pleasure to return to the familiar, including all the plants round the garden which have burst forth, seemingly behind my back!

Now we have the summer to look forward to as well as the Queen's Jubilee which promises to include all kinds of excitements to lift the spirits. I do hope that you all enjoy the summer ahead. There will be a newsletter for July but as we always have a break from meetings at U3A for the month of August, there will be no newsletter for that month.

My Very Best Wishes to you all!



Eliane Davie
Editor



Eliane Davie - Editor



