



January 2025  
Newsletter

## Chair's Message

Hello Everyone

As we come to the end of 2024 it feels appropriate to take some time to reflect on the rollercoaster ride I seem to have been on since becoming Chair – is really only since April? First of all, I want to thank you for your support, it has sometimes proved to be a challenging role but I am grateful to those of you who have taken the time to both offer words of encouragement and also to step up in a practical way. We are now working with quite a reduced number on the Committee which has meant a heavier workload for us all making sure that Oxton and Prenton u3a continues to function as it should – although again my thanks go to those members not on the committee who have given us help, advice and support.

But on reflection it's been a good year, Pam has provided us with a wide ranging and interesting Speaker programme (which looks set to continue into 2025) we have had some fantastic trips out thanks to Wil (a highlight for me was our trip to the Shakespeare of the North in Prescott) and who could forget Richard and Poppy's friends opening up their astonishing Georgian house for us? Ken has coordinated some wonderful walks for us this year – and Barbara finished off our social programme with Christmas lunch at Tranmere Rovers. So not bad at all!

Looking forward to 2025 I hope that we can get a Groups Coordinator and start building our Interest Groups. We have had a few ideas put forward for new groups but it is difficult without someone at the helm to give new Group Leaders the help and support they need, especially in the early days. We have quite a long break – our last Thursday meeting is on the 12th December and we don't meet up again until the 16th January – I know that I will miss your company but I'm grateful that my Nordic Walking Group will continue to meet every Tuesday morning in Birkenhead Park (albeit in a reduced form as members will, I know, have family commitments).

So on we go! I wish you all a Happy and Healthy Christmas and New Year and I look forward to seeing you all on Thursday 16th January 2025

Corinne

## Membership Renewals

Our membership year runs from November to October and although there has been a good response thus far, there are a few members still to renew. In February we will be asking Group Leaders, trip organisers and Ken on the door for our meetings, to check membership cards – so you'll need to make sure that you not only have the new 2025 white card but that you carry it with you.

On payment of your membership subscription, you will receive our local u3a monthly newsletter and you can attend u3a meetings and take part in groups, activities and trips with the knowledge that you are covered by our liability insurance which makes up part of the cost.

Our annual subscription is great value at only £15, and £2 payable for Group meetings and our Thursday meetings.

It's easy to renew by cash or cheque at our Thursday meetings up to the end of January, when the members database will be updated. If you haven't renewed by then I'm afraid the first thing you might notice is that you are not receiving the newsletter!

Membership secretary

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## Where Does Our Money Come From

Gerry Riley



Our final member talk of 2024 was presented by Gerry Riley. As an introduction to the subject, Gerry showed us videos of Richard J Murphy, a political economist, discussing modern monetary theory. We heard about the three types of money. 1. Cash, 2. Central Bank Reserves (electronic money enabling banks to make payments between themselves), and 3. Bank deposits (numbers in a computer system, which is most of the money in our economy). We learned about 'The Balloon Model' and how bankers' confidence affected ratios between inner (Nos. 1 + 2,

– government created money) and outer balloons (No 3. – bank created money).

My simple beliefs, that bullion is behind cash, and the money I save at the bank is then lent to borrowers, were soon overturned – with explanations that I'm not sure I fully understood. But it was certainly an interesting talk and Gerry was happy to answer the questions that followed.

## Arley Hall and Garden coach trip

Arley Hall near Northwich is often used as a film location and Wil organised an excellent day out to visit this beautiful house. The Hall was creatively decorated with fresh flowers and foliage from the Arley gardens by local florists and Horticultural colleges. Carol singing and festive songs in the library and on the stairs from the Rock Choir entertained us as we meandered around the Hall enjoying the displays. There was a Christmas Craft Fair selling artisan goods and unusual giftware. The barn was full of Christmas trees decorated by local primary schools. We enjoyed the peace of the lovely chapel with its basketweave nativity scene and explored the park and formal garden, trying to identify the plants and trees that still held winter interest. A catch up in the café when we could get a seat and finally a look round the gift shop before heading back to the coach.

Wil had arranged this trip to put us in the Christmas Spirit - It certainly fulfilled that promise.



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## 2024 Christmas Lunch at Tranmere Rovers – our thanks to Barbara





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## Bus Consultations

30th January 2025

Bus services in the Liverpool City Region are due for reforms. Billy Bradshaw the Engagement Officer is organising consultations about the changes. He will be at our meeting on Thursday 30th January to hear our views. We hope to receive a link to the relevant online survey and he will also be bringing paper copies on the day.

## Final meeting of 2024



Thanks to the bakers amongst us who brought delicious home baked mince pies to the meeting. Our entertainment was provided by the ukelele group playing festive music and many members joined in with the singing.

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## Art Appreciation

## The Williamson Gallery.



Bernadette organised a visit with one of the artists involved, to see the third part of "Into the Wyld".

I found some of the work difficult to understand. However, with John Elcock on hand to explain the ideas in the pieces and the way they connected to Wirral and the poem 'Sir Gawain and the Green Knight', the meeting was very thought provoking and enjoyable.

## December Lunch with Joan at the Refreshment Rooms

"Many thanks to Joan for running the lunch club", "What a wonderful lunch with great friends!" and "Thanks for a lovely afternoon" were some of the comments from diners. We all enjoyed the good food and great company.



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## 'u3a Matters' Magazine

Some local u3a groups include a subscription to the 'u3a Matters' magazine in their (higher) annual subscription. I think we have taken the right decision for us to keep it separate as not all of you have expressed an interest in receiving it. The cost is only £4 a year, but that is £4 wasted if it's not something you want.

However, there is still time to sign up if you want it - see Margaret Cullen our Treasurer who will shortly be putting in the order with The Third Age Trust.

## SPEAKER MEETINGS January– July 2025

16th Jan.	<a href="#">An Embroiderer's Tale.</a>	Tina Saunders – Needles & Sparkles
13th Feb.	<a href="#">Neston &amp; Parkgate: links to the slave trade.</a>	A. Annakin– Smith
13th Mar.	<a href="#">A History of Wirral Hospitals.</a>	Gavin Hunter
10th Apr.	<a href="#">Jessie Gavin– Gentleman Jack of Oxton.</a>	Rowena Beighton–Dykes
8th May.	<a href="#">The Olympic Games – A View from the Athlete Village.</a>	D. Mottram
5th Jun.	<a href="#">Creation of a Garden.</a>	Michael Corfe
3rd Jul.	<a href="#">Elvis – That's the Way it Was</a>	Barry Humphreys

[Pamela Southall](#)

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### Tea and Coffee Rota

16 January 2025	Gwyneth Williams Gwyn Thomas
30 January	Brenda George Judith Wylie
13 February	Ann Greenhalgh Norma Finlayson
27 February	Julia Turner Karen Little
13 March	Barbara Baker Kathy Sullivan

It's a great opportunity to help out and get to know people. To be added to the list for 2025 please contact me on 0151 608 6226 or 07568563329

[Joan Benton](#)

## GROUP NEWS

Important notice – We are seeking a Group Coordinator.

Join a welcoming and supportive committee to play a pivotal position in coordinating activities amongst our members and facilitate the setting up of new groups. To find out more about the role contact any member of the committee or : <mailto:chair@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

### Art Appreciation

Held in the Sessions room in TWPG on 3rd Wednesday in month. 10am for 10.15 start

15<sup>th</sup> Jan. Piero Della Francesca. An Early Renaissance artist.

Contact Bernadette – <mailto:art@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

### Book Group 2

Meets at 10.30. – 12.00. in Wallasey at Joyce Woosley's home near Wallasey Town Hall on Thursday following the first u3a meeting in the month.

Next meeting: 23<sup>rd</sup> January. Reading 'Giver of the Stars'

Contact Joyce: <mailto:book2@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

### Book Group 1

Meets in Oxton at Val Edward's house on the second Tuesday in the month. Full at the moment. Contact: [book1@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:book1@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

### Craft Group

The meeting is on the last Monday of the month 2.00 – 4.00. At Joan Benton's house. Next meeting is 27<sup>th</sup> January. Contact: [craft@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:craft@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

### Lunch Group

Our lunch group hosted by Joan Benton is held monthly at the Refreshment Rooms. Numbers are limited so watch out at TWPG meetings for the signup sheet. This has proved to be a popular event so please let Joan know if you are not going to be attending once you have signed up.

Next lunch group meeting: 22<sup>nd</sup> January 12:45 for 1:00pm (usually the third Wednesday in the month)

### Nordic Walking

Come and join Corinne's Nordic Walking Group every Tuesday at 10.00 am at Birkenhead Park visitor centre. We walk for an hour then have refreshments at the café. All year round.

### Play Reading

2nd Tuesday monthly usually. Held at Eliane Davie's house, with room for one more member. Next meeting: To be announced

10.00am – 12.30

Contact Eliane: <mailto:playreading@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

## Bridge Group and Rummikub

These groups now have Bill Nock as their new leader with Tony on hand to teach bridge to new members. They will be starting up again in January, once meetings days and times are arranged with members. Meets in the cabin at TWPG.

## Walking Group

Usually 3rd Friday in month. <mailto:walks@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

## Drawing

Due to lack of leader this group is temporarily suspended. Previously approx. 10 – 12 people of all skill levels attended monthly for 2 hrs. Most meetings were held in the 'cabin' and some sessions were held outdoors in fine weather. Enthusiastic amateur wanted to lead us.

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## Care of members

If you know of any member who is unwell, in hospital or in need of a card please let Mary Hamilton or Dot Matthews know.

Please give some info – a different type of card is required for someone who has a broken leg to someone who has had a major heart attack!

Also, a bit of information for sympathy cards is helpful.

[marycare@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:marycare@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

[dotcare@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:dotcare@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

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## *And finally.....*

Thanks to Steve Cottam for his excellent proofreading, which he manages to fit in his busy schedule – much appreciated by me. Thanks also to Corinne for photos and Carole Lapping for additional information.

*Kathy Binns*