October 2026

Membership Renewal 2026/27.

Membership Renewal is due by 31st October. You can renew your membership at our General Meetings. If you are not able to attend a General meeting before the end of October, please arrange for a friend to renew your membership for you. Payment can be in cash or cheque payable to "Oxton, Prenton & District u3a". To reduce queueing, please bring the exact cash if possible / prepare your cheque in advance. The Renewal Fee remains unchanged - £15 (or £11 if you are a fully paid member of another u3a).

If you have changed your Address, Email, or Telephone number, please let me know when renewing your membership.
Thanks
Tony
Membership Secretary

****

Calendrical Conundrums: The Story of our Calendar Mike Shaw



Mike Shaw opened our new season of speaker meetings with an amusing exploration of the British Christian calendar. By the end of his talk, the subtitle — "2,500 Years of Meddling" — felt entirely justified.

We heard how a desire for a solar calendar that kept in step with the seasons also had to provide a dependable way for calculating movable religious feasts.

Mike told us how features of both the Roman and Egyptian calendars were combined, only for their inaccuracies to reveal themselves over time. As the calendar drifted further and further out of alignment with the seasons, ecclesiastical authorities intervened. Guided by astronomers, they introduced a series of adjustments - not all welcomed by different countries originally, with Britain eventually adopted the modern calendar in 1752.

Mike also covered other aspects of time including the naming of days and months but his explanations made this journey through time both informative and thoroughly entertaining.

The Odyssey in Art

Art Appreciation with Bernadette



Bernadette led us on a fascinating journey this month as the Art Appreciation group explored *The Odyssey in Art*. She guided us through Homer's epic tale of adventure, longing, and homecoming, showing how artists across the centuries have interpreted the story of Odysseus's travels.

We looked at works by artists such as Waterhouse and Turner, who captured Odysseus's encounters with sea monsters, storms, and other perils, while Penelope waited patiently at home as her persistent suitors tried—and failed—to win her hand.

As always, Bernadette's warm and engaging style made the session enjoyable. Her talk reminded us why this ancient story of craftiness and resilience continues to inspire artists and filmmakers.

Art Appreciation Autumn Programme

21st October	Leonard McCombe Exhibition	Williamson Art Gallery
18th November	''Apples in Art''	TWPG Session Room
16th December	''Mother and Child''	TWPG Session Room

****



Monthly Walk.
Willaston Circular with Ken

The four-mile circular route started at The Nags Head car park at 10.30 and lasted two hours. Linda, who took the photo, commented ''Perfect weather, and company, in our lovely Wirral. Thanks Ken and u3a pals.'' Eileen said "Our walk was great. Over the fields and along the lanes – all enjoyable with a small friendly group of walkers. Good choice again Ken."
Get in touch with Ken if you can volunteer to occasionally lead a future walk when he is unavailable. He is at the back of this photo in high vis jacket, but is usually at the front desk at meetings.
mailto:walks@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Days out with your bus pass

Sign-up sheets will be available at Thursday meetings, but you can also sign-up by sending Tony (who is also our membership secretary) an email. Please include Name, Mobile Number, and details of emergency contact.
Meeting arrangements and travel times are for guidance, and may change nearer the event. More detailed information is available from Tony.
membership@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Friday 16th October – A Christmas Shopping Trip to Grosvenor Garden Centre Chester, followed by Choral Evensong at Chester Cathedral.
Make your own way to Hamilton Square Station. Meet in the Booking Hall at 11.40. Take 12.04 train to Chester and then take a short Bus Ride to the Garden Centre. You will have 2½ to 3 hours of Retail Therapy, and an opportunity to enjoy lunch in the restaurant. We will return to the City for Evensong at the Cathedral at 5.30pm. Return train to arrive at Birkenhead about 7pm.

Thursday 26th November – The Harris – Preston's Cultural Hub – Preston
Explore ceramics, history, fashion, glass, art and even a 13,000-year-old elk. Special Exhibition - Horrockses Fashions - reveals the creativity, craftsmanship and cultural significance behind one of Britain's most beloved post-war fashion labels. There is a café available
We will travel to and from Preston on the bus from Liverpool. You get good value from your bus pass as it is a 2¼ hour journey each way.
10.49 from Queens Square, Liverpool arrives Preston 13.06
16.10 from Preston, arrives Liverpool 18.13

Thursday 11th February 2027 – Landside Tour of Liverpool John Lennon Airport
The tour Starts in the Cavern Suite with a short presentation from the FoLA (Friends of John Lennon Airport) Tour Guides.
We will view outdoor EasyJet operations up close through the perimeter fence. Then a visit to the landside areas of the terminal. The tour lasts 1½ to 2 hours and there is a charge of £7.50
We will travel by Merseyrail to Liverpool South Parkway then take the Shuttle bus to the Airport. Return will be on 500 Airport Bus to Liverpool. Expect to set off on 1st Bus/Train available after 9.30 am, and arrive back in Liverpool City Centre mid-late afternoon.

****

A book at teatime

Formerly known as A BOOK AND A GLASS OF WINE (when we used to meet in the evening) this reading group has continued to meet during the Summer. We read a variety of books ranging from challenging to easy reads. Now we are into Autumn with a few extra members until Valerie's group resumes. Our books for October and November are THE ARTIST by Lucy Steeds and THE LAND IN WINTER by Andrew Miller.

Judith Whaley

Play reading with Eliane

At our September meeting on the 8th we read 'Shakespeare Country' by Peter Whelan and completed it.
Our next meeting will be on Tuesday, October 13th, when we will be reading 'Laying the Ghost' by Simon Williams. It is a very funny play which went down very well when I directed a production for the Carlton Players some years ago. Written and produced in the early 2000s, with only a few lines altered it can be played in the present.
It is set in a retirement home where Margot, an ex actress, is celebrating her 70th birthday with Freda her psychic friend, and is visited by her ex husband Sir Leo. During the Fifties Margot and Leo had been famous for their performances in 'Romeo and Juliet', and a young actress, Sadie Croft arrives to discuss the part of Juliet which she is soon to be performing. Sadie is having an affair with Leo so when his present wife, Lady Judy Buchanan arrives unexpectedly the situation becomes chaotic.
Action involves a corpse, (Sir Leo) a set of large false teeth, a ghost (Sir Leo) three agitated women (visible only to Freda) and a man dressed as Superman so you can imagine the general drift. A happy end though when Margo receives an unexpected birthday gift!
Betty Lince, one of the group, managed to get hold of copies of 'Under Milk Wood ' by Dylan Thomas, so that will be our November play.

Christmas Buffet Lunch

Date: Thursday 17th December

£12 per person payable in advance.

Thursday 17th is our last meeting before Christmas, we are intending to serve a buffet lunch and mince pies.

Coffee and tea will be provided but BYOB if you wish

Christmas themed entertainment.

Raffle prizes - donations welcome.

Barbara Winstanley will manage bookings.

Tickets on sale from Thursday 5th November.

Numbers are limited – book early

Tea and Coffee Rota

If members would like to help out and lighten the load, contact Joan Benton on 0151 608 6226 or 07568563329. It's a great way to meet more members.

8 Oct	Gwyneth Williams Gwyn Thomas
22 Oct	Carol Ashfield Joan Beedles
5 Nov	Pat Smith Aileen Lawless

****

Speaker Meetings — Arranged by Pam Southall

8th October	The Waterways of Chester	John Herson
5th November	Brunnanburgh – the battle that created a nation	Paul Atherton
3rd December	Sleight of Mind' (how to trick the mind)	Pete Turner
21st January	Fraud and Scam Protection	Nick Lynch
18th February	Dreams of Amarna – Stitching an Egyptology Adventure	Rachel Mary Wright
18th March	Wild Astronomy	Dr Steve Barrett
15th April	Dr Livingstone I presume?	Fran Sandham
13th May	Life through the rear-view mirror	Ron Hutchinson

10th June	Liverpool's Historic Pubs	Julie Kershaw
8th July	The Commonwealth War Graves'	Brenda Brewer

****

GROUPS

Play Reading- 2nd Tuesday monthly. Next meeting: 13th Oct. 10.00am - 12.30. Held at Eliane Davie's house. Contact Eliane: mailto:playreading@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Art Appreciation – Usually held in the Session room in TWPG. 3rd Wed each month. See notice for upcoming meetings. Contact – mailto:art@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Near and Far with your Bus Pass – Three upcoming trips are planned. Chester, Preston, and Liverpool John Lennon Airport.

Natter and Read - Meets at 10.30. – 12.00. in Wallasey at Joyce Woosley's home on Thurs following the first u3a meeting in the month. Spaces available. All books are provided by the Library Service. Contact Joyce:- mailto:book2@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Lunch Group - Hosted by Joan Benton - held monthly at the Refreshment Rooms on the third Wednesday in the month at 12:45 for 1:00pm. Numbers are limited so watch out at TWPG meetings for the signup sheet.

Walking Group Led by Ken Jackson. Usually 3rd Friday in month. mailto:walks@oxtonu3a.co.uk Information and Sign-up sheet available in meetings.

Nordic Walking Led by Corinne Every Tuesday at 10.00 am at Birkenhead Park visitor centre. We walk for an hour then have refreshments at the café.

Bridge Group and Rummikub - Bill Nock is the leader with Tony on hand to teach bridge to new members. Meets in the cabin at TWPG fortnightly on Wed. at 10.00am.

Craft Group Led by Joan Benton. Usually, the group meets on the last Mon of the month. 2.00– 4.00. Full at the moment, but names can be added to a reserve list. Contact: craft@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Care of members

Eve Felton has agreed to be the point of contact so if you know of any member in need of a kind word please contact

committeemember@oxtonu3a.co.uk

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.

****

Thanks to Steve Cottam for proofreading and to Linda and Eileen for photos and comments and to group leaders for information regarding their groups.

If you think you have anything u3a related to be included in the newsletter please send it to me.

mailto:newsletter@oxtonu3a.co.uk *Kathy*