



# OXTON, PRENTON & DISTRICT U3A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER FEBRUARY 2015

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As I am writing this message we are already halfway through January and well into the New Year detox. If you did not make joining a new group one of your New Year resolutions why not do so now? There is an Oxton & Prenton U3A Group for every day of the week, everything from music or astronomy through to meditation and 'a book and a glass of wine'. Try it, you may learn some new things, meet some new friends and most importantly enjoy it!!

Colin Burkitt

\*\*\*\*\*

## 2014 CHRISTMAS LUNCH

I think it is more than fair to say that over the years we have enjoyed some really wonderful Christmas Lunches at a wide variety of venues in The Wirral, but I hope that most of you will agree that the one so many of us attended on 19<sup>th</sup> December 2014 was probably the best yet. It certainly was the best attended and nearly 70 of our members sat down to a delicious lunch at Wirral Ladies Golf Club, in Oxton.

The food was excellent and the atmosphere so very friendly and informal with the service being first class. There was much fun and gaiety with the many raffle games being enjoyed by all. To top it all I was informed by one of our male guests that not only was the beer very good but that buying a pint or two didn't break the bank !!

Thank you to Gwyneth who managed to take a few photographs, a couple of which are shown below and a very big thank you to our very own 2 Barbaras without whom none of it would have been possible.

Don't say I told you, but a little bird whispered to me that a booking has already been made for Christmas 2015. Make sure you get your name down early !!



**VISIT TO THE LITTLE THEATRE, HOME OF THE CARLTON PLAYERS. 29<sup>th</sup> JANUARY 2015**

The facade of the Little Theatre in Grange Road, Birkenhead, gives little indication of the wealth of treasure that lies behind.

Elianne was there to greet us when we arrived on a cold, blustery day, pelted by hail stones. We soon found ourselves in a spaciouly pleasing reception area, full of comfortable chairs. With a very welcome cup of hot tea in hand, we were happy to be surrounded by familiar U3A faces.

From the moment our tour began, congenial members of the Carlton Players presented us with a wealth of information related to the formation of the company and the purchase and development of its present home.

Having begun my working life as a set designer, painter and bit-part player in weekly repertory theatre I was very happy to re-connect with the intricacies of a living, working venture and to be reminded of the enormity of effort, will and creativity that needs to be expended in order to keep it functioning. There were about twenty in our group and I think we were all full of admiration for the level of commitment and skill the company had brought to the project. We were impressed by the degree of organisational detail and the use of space. Few theatres ever have enough room in which to function but here there were areas for rehearsal, properties, wardrobe, construction, scenery, lighting, effects, dressing and relaxation, though the 'green room' was in this case furnished in a sumptuous red.

There was throughout, an air of professionalism that belied the company's amateur status. It left me wanting to establish future links with the Carlton Players and to be part of the audience for future productions.

Thank you Carlton Players for a rich and rewarding morning

Contributed by Brian Gill

\*\*\*\*\*

**HELP PLEASE WITH TEA & COFFEE !!**

I would like to thank all the members who make and serve tea and coffee at the start of our meetings. They do a great job, and on their behalf I would like to ask that when you have finished with your drinks, please could you return your mugs to the counter?

I am sure (at least I hope) that there are many more people who would like to join the rota, and I haven't managed to twist their arm yet. The more volunteers we have, the longer the period between having to do this task. It is a very good way of getting to know people, so if you are interested could you ring me on 608 6226 and I will willingly add your name to the list.

*Joan Benton*

\*\*\*\*\*

**CHRISTMAS WALK 2014**

We have received a letter of thanks from the Wednesday Special Needs Club following the generous donation from the walking group. A total of £95 was raised by the group at the social event following the annual Christmas walk. This money has gone towards supporting the sensory room in the Hoylake centre. This invaluable resource is used daily by special needs groups from across the Wirral. If you would like to know more about the Wednesday Special Needs Club you can access their website at <http://www.wsnc.co.uk/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**FORTHCOMING EVENTS** – Full booking details available at meetings - see your social organisers at the back of the hall, or e-mail [barbara@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:barbara@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

- 2<sup>nd</sup> FEBRUARY - Transmitting Andy Warhol at Liverpool Tate  
**Payment required to confirm your place** FULL
- 11<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY - Tour of Victoria Gallery & Garstang Museum  
**Meet at 10-00 outside Adelphi Hotel** FULL
- 19<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY - Educating Rita at Liverpool Playhouse 7.30 pm  
**Booking now open**
- 25 FEBRUARY - Mamma Mia – The Musical at Liverpool Empire 2.30pm  
**Tickets now available for collection**
- 5<sup>th</sup> MARCH - Cathedral Tower Twilight Visit - meet 5.30 pm at Anglican Cathedral
- 24<sup>th</sup> MARCH - Midsummer Night’s Dream at Liverpool Everyman 7.30 pm  
**Booking now open**
- 20<sup>th</sup> MAY - Barnum at Liverpool Empire 2.30pm  
**Booking now open**

\*\*\*\*\*

**FEBRUARY WALK**

13th FEBRUARY 2015 - LIVERPOOL 3 PARKS WALK

This walk of approx 6 miles is walking mainly on tarmac paths, although it can be a bit muddy in places. We start at Liverpool Central and walk up to the Anglican Cathedral, after that it is relatively flat. There will be a coffee/toilet stop at around halfway.

Meet outside the wedding cake shop at Liverpool Central Station at 10-30am. Lunch will be about 2pm in the Toby Carvery, Aigburth. After lunch it is a 10 minute walk to the station to return by train to Liverpool Central.

Please put your names down on the list at the back of the hall at the next meeting. It is important that the Walk Leader knows who is joining the walk.

\*\*\*\*\*

**MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS**

- 5<sup>th</sup> February : The Poetry Group will entertain us
- 19th February : The Bibby Line - Christine Spencer

\*\*\*\*\*

On behalf of all our members a card has been sent to Barbara Bullough to wish her a speedy recovery following her recent accident. Barbara is her usual cheerful self but will be confined to home for the next 6-8 weeks, I am sure she would be happy to hear from her friends in Oxton U3A.



**GET WELL SOON BARBARA**

We like to keep in touch with members who are unable to attend our meetings so Carol Burkitt & Pauline Pinnington ask for your co-operation in letting them know when someone is unwell. Thank you.

\*\*\*\*\*

## LATEST GROUP NEWS

### LOCAL HISTORY

\*\*\*\*\* MONDAY FEBRUARY 16TH 2PM - SESSION ROOM TWPG\*\*\*\*\*

RON GILMAN – ‘LINKS BETWEEN THE NORTH WEST AND THE HISTORY OF SLAVERY AND THE AMERICAN CIVIL WAR’

This meeting of the Group will be available to Members who wish to access a one off visit when the topic is of interest to them.

The Group Leader Ann Hillier must be consulted if you wish to attend.

### THE NEW BOOK GROUP

This will commence 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday each month starting 3<sup>rd</sup> February 2015 10am-12noon at 10 Kings Mount. (More members welcomed)

### BASIC KNOW YOUR CAMERA.

Start date to be announced. Would all members who have expressed an interest please contact Brenda George at the next meeting or e-mail [brenda@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:brenda@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

### MEDITATION

Next meeting is February 6<sup>th</sup> 2015

### MUSIC GROUP PROGRAMME

February 4 <sup>th</sup>	Ann Hillier	- Music in relaxation mode.
March 4 <sup>th</sup>	Wynn Houghton	- Tchaikovsky Eugene Onegin (1)
April 1 <sup>st</sup>	“ “	- Tchaikovsky Eugene Onegin (2)
6 <sup>th</sup> May	Frank Denye	- Members request
3 <sup>RD</sup> JUNE	Paul Cullen	- Nielson & Sibelius

JULY AND AUGUST NO MEETING

### GARDENING GROUP PROGRAMME

February 25 <sup>th</sup>	- Ness Gardens meet at 11-00 am
March 11 <sup>th</sup>	- Gordale Garden Centre at 11-00 am. Talk on planting pots & troughs
April	- time and date to be arranged
May 27 <sup>th</sup>	- meet at member's garden
June	- Tatton Park (awaiting day and date)
July	- meeting at local allotment

### HISTORY OF ART

The next six monthly meetings for the above Group are to be held on Wednesday mornings at 10.30 am and are on the following dates;

February 18 <sup>th</sup>	Pre-Raphaelites ( Paul Cullen )
March 18 <sup>th</sup>	Visit to the Lady Lever Art Gallery

## COMPARATIVE BELIEFS

**There will be no meeting of this Group in February.**

**There are still groups who would like more members**

Scrabble, Lunch Circle, Astronomy, Comparative Beliefs. Any ideas for short or taster courses will be welcomed. Please contact [brenda@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:brenda@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

**!!!!!!! NEW ART GROUP !!!!!!!**

**\*\*\*\*\*STOP PRESS NEWS\*\*\*\*\***

**\*\*\*STARTS 24<sup>th</sup> FEBRUARY 10-00 AM – 12-00 NOON IN THE CABIN TWPG CAR PARK\*\*\***

### U3A Art Sessions

I am proposing to offer a time limited course (2 hours per week for 6 weeks?) on Basic Drawing which will be held in one of the rooms at the church.

As there is a charge of £10 for the room it makes sense to ensure we have approximately 10 people signed up for the course in order to keep costs to a reasonable level. I am therefore trying to find a day and time to suit as many people as possible. I am not able to do all day Monday or Wednesday afternoon but can be flexible for the rest of the week. If interested members can meet with me after the Thursday meeting to discuss the proposed course that will be the most useful way to get this underway, otherwise I can be contacted via email [c.whitham1@ntlworld.com](mailto:c.whitham1@ntlworld.com)

### Key points

- Experience is not necessary – the course will cover basic mark making, tone, measuring, and perspective.
- Participants will need to provide their own paper (A3 sketching pad) and pencils (2B, 3B, 4/6B pencils).
- We will be drawing from life, not photographs.



Two pictures from a display put together for the funders of the Art Workshops at The Wirral Holistic Care Centre in Claughton.