

**OXTON, PRENTON & DISTRICT U3A  
 MONTHLY NEWSLETTER  
 MAY 2015**



**CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE**

It has been good to see the weather getting warmer and the sun shining lately. It makes me feel as though summer can only be just around the corner. I am sure that many of you will already have plans for your Summer this year but if you are still wondering what to do take a look at the U3A North West Region Summer School information in this newsletter. The Summer School is based at Newton Rigg College near Penrith, close to the Northern Lakes, a truly beautiful part of our country. There are a wide range of subjects being offered and the good news is that the Early Bird discount for members has been extended to 31<sup>st</sup> May.

Colin Burkitt - Chairman

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**MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS**

- 14<sup>th</sup> May 2015      WW1 Lusitania & Liverpool – Speaker Kevin Roach
- 28<sup>th</sup> May 2015      We welcome a representative of The Garstang Museum in Liverpool  
 Come and find out more about the fascinating exhibits of this unusual museum.

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**TUESDAY LUNCH CIRCLE**

Tuesday 19<sup>th</sup> May meet at 12-15 pm at The Queen's Hotel, Oxton

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**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)

## **SOCIAL OUTINGS**

### **REMINDERS !!!!!**

- Thursday 7 May 2015                      Electric Mountain & Llanberis Lake Railway 9.15 a.m  
**PROMPT** departure.  
**Please remember sensible footwear**
- Monday 11 May 2015                      Leonora Carrington exhibition @ Liverpool Tate  
with History of Art Group 10.30am start.

### **THEATRE – REMINDERS**

- Wednesday 20 May 2015                      Barnum Liverpool Empire 2.30pm - Tickets available for  
collection  
Meet at theatre.

### **THEATRE – NOW BOOKING**

- Thursday 23 July 2015                      Curious Incident of the dog in the Night-time at Liverpool  
Empire 2.30 pm

### **SOCIAL EVENTS - NOW BOOKING**

- Monday 11 May 2015                      Leonora Carrington exhibition at Liverpool Tate
- Thursday 4 June 2015                      Visit to Tatton Park 9.30am departure. Full payment now due  
please.
- Wednesday 17 June 2015                      Visit to Sudley House with History of Art group  
**NEW limited places**
- Friday 3 July 2015                      The Annual boat trip is a Windermere lake cruise & meal in  
Wild Boar Inn. Full payment now due please  
**Reserve list only**

**Full booking details available at meetings  
See your social organisers**

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If you know of any of our members who are ill or unable to come to our meetings, please let Carol Burkitt or Pauline Pinnington know.

## WALKING GROUP

FRIDAY 15<sup>TH</sup> MAY 2015

Colin will lead a walk of 7 miles from Formby to Freshfield, along the coast either side of Formby Point, into the Red Squirrel sanctuary, back inland via the old Fishermans path to lunch in the Freshfield Hotel. The route is on tarmac paths, good tracks, firm sand and short sections of dunes so any sensible shoes and maybe a stick will be fine. We will have a 30 minute break at the halfway point for toilets and to view the squirrels. You may wish to bring a snack and a drink as there are no catering facilities at the halfway point and we will not reach the Freshfield Hotel for a meal and a drink until around 3 pm.

The Wirral Line platform at Moorfields Station will be closed so travel to Central Station and change onto the Southport line for Formby. Trains depart Liverpool Central at 9-53, 10-08 or 10-23, we will wait at Formby for the arrival of the 10-23 train from Central due at 10-52.

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## LATEST GROUP NEWS

See a full list of all our special interest groups on our website [www.oxtonu3a.co.uk](http://www.oxtonu3a.co.uk)

### NEW ART GROUP

Art Group has now started and meets on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday in the month please see Corinne if you wish to attend.

### SINGING GROUP

We have someone who is prepared to run a Singing Group if a keyboard or piano player can be found to accompany them.

Please see Brenda if you are interested.

### MUSIC GROUP PROGRAMME

6<sup>th</sup> May            Members request, please ask for and complete a form from Paul.

3<sup>RD</sup> JUNE        Paul Cullen            - Nielson & Sibelius

JULY AND AUGUST NO MEETING

### GARDENING GROUP PROGRAMME

May 27<sup>th</sup>        - meet at member's garden

June 4<sup>th</sup>        - Tatton Park

July              - meeting at local allotment

**GETTING TO KNOW YOUR CAMERA**

This is not running as a formal group but Dave is willing to help anyone by arrangement.

**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;

May 11<sup>th</sup> Visit to Liverpool Tate Gallery Leonora Carrington ( Lancs/Mexico) meet 10-30am

May 20<sup>th</sup> Rembrandt’s The Nightwatch (Bernadette)

June 17<sup>th</sup> Visit to Sudley House Liverpool

PLEASE CHECK ON THE NOTICE BOARD SHOULD THERE BE ANY CHANGES

**LOCAL HISTORY**

If you would like to go as a visitor please contact Ann

**COMPARATIVE BELIEFS**

This special interest Group has been cancelled until further notice

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**COMMITTEE MEMBERS**

As many of you are aware, there will be some new faces amongst your U3A Committee once the AGM has been held on 30<sup>th</sup> April 2015. This is due to the fact that our new Constitution has a ruling over how long Committee Members can serve, and therefore some of your present Committee are coming to the end of their period of service. One such long serving Committee Member who will be retiring from the Committee is none other than Brenda George who is our Groups Co-ordinator and I have managed to persuade Brenda to write to you all via this newsletter. Her letter appears below.

I hope to have further input from the other Committee Members who are retiring in the June edition of the Newsletter.

Also in this edition are articles regarding the amazing achievements of two of our present Members. I am sure there are many more of you who have equally amazing achievements so why not let me know? I would love to hear from you.

Sandra Lakin – Newsletter Editor

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## LETTER FROM THE LAKE DISTRICT

Dear Fellow Members of Oxton/Prenton U3A,

I'm sorry I will not be at the A.G.M. to say this personally but I would like you all to know how much I have enjoyed serving on this U3A committee.

When I was asked if I would be the Groups Coordinator 5 years ago I did not foresee how good it would be for me personally or with what interesting and enthusiastic people I would be working —Committee Members, Group Leaders and Group members.

Everybody has given me so much support whatever I have asked Oxton / Prenton U3A members have tried to deliver. This has helped to create the friendly, buzzing, group to which I am proud to belong.

My heartfelt thanks to all of you and please keep supporting everything especially new Committee Members in the same enthusiastic way.

Yours Sincerely

Brenda

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### **A VERY SPECIAL MEMBER**

We are so very lucky in Oxton & Prenton U3A to have so many interesting and talented members, but it is not very often that one of our members has the honour of being invited to a reception at Buckingham Palace to meet H M Queen Elizabeth II, so I feel very privileged to include an article from that very special member, Kathleen Stansfield ;

**For the 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of The Winston Churchill Memorial Trust her Majesty the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh are hosting a Reception at Buckingham Palace.....and you are invited!!**

To receive such a message left me utterly dumbfounded and at first I thought it was some kind of joke. It was not a joke! The reason for my invitation was that I was a Churchill Fellow having successfully applied for a Travelling Fellowship in 1989.

This year being the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary not only of the Trust but the 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary of Winston Churchill's death a very special celebration had been planned. This was to invite just 300 of all the 5000 Churchill Fellows over the past 50 years to the Reception on March 18<sup>th</sup> at Buckingham Palace. We will never know who made the selections.

The history and full details of the Trust can be found on their website [www.wcmt.org.uk](http://www.wcmt.org.uk).

The experience was something never to be forgotten.



Passing through close security, I with others went through the magnificent gates of Buckingham Palace through the inner courtyard, into the Grand Hall and up the magnificent marble staircase although owing to my still healing broken hip I was gently led to a hidden lift and almost tenderly led into the Picture Gallery with the amazing collection of Old Masters where Pol Roger champagne was being served by lovely young women and the never ending supply of exquisite canapés.

Then at a given moment we were all 300 skilfully led through to the Music Room where the Queen, Prince Phillip, the Duke of Kent and the Duke of Gloucester stood in line to receive each of the 300.

The Queen looked as always, serene and smiling and her white glove gently touched the tips of my fingers. There was a lovely twinkle in her eye; I suppose she might have noticed that I had a hospital walking stick. Or who knows maybe she remembered that in 1990 on the 25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Churchill's death she had presented me with my silver medal at The Guildhall in London. I was so overwhelmed by this second meeting that I walked straight past the three Royal dukes smiling blissfully. I do not suppose they thought anything of it.

Afterward the Royal dukes circulated among us all talking to everyone, including me. I found the Duke of Gloucester very jolly and full of interest in everything. Royal Household personnel were at the side of each Royal gently moving them on to other groups.

The ladies will want to know "WHAT DID YOU WEAR?" Our instructions were Day Dress but whatever you feel comfortable in hats and gloves were not necessary.

I wore black evening trousers slim fit and a simple multicoloured ¾ sleeve top which skimmed my still swollen hip and had a diamante buckle at the V neck. Happily I was able to wear pretty wedge shoes.

Yes, another very special day to remember.

Kathleen Stansfield

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## ANOTHER SPECIAL MEMBER

I am absolutely delighted to let you all know that Gerry Riley successfully completed his abseil down Leasowe Lighthouse, in order to raise funds for Wirral Hospice St John's. Well done Gerry it looks absolutely terrifying, just glad you came down safely. Will all of you who sponsored Gerry please let him have your donation as soon as possible please? Thank you.



## NETWORK NEWS

**Annual Conference Day** Thursday 4<sup>th</sup> June 2015 11:00am – 3:45pm (coffee from 10:30am) at Crewe Arms Hotel, (directly opposite to the station) Crewe, Post Code CW2 6DN

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### **Gilbert and Sullivan Festival Harrogate 12-13 August 2015**

Full details in the Events Section of the National Website [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk)

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### **Residential Summer School: 1–4 September 2015 Newton Rigg College, Penrith, Cumbria, CA11 0AH**

*An opportunity to learn in the inspiring setting of the Lake District*



The eight Courses include the following that have proved popular at previous Residential Schools:

**Creative Writing; Digital Photography  
Geology (Lakeland Fire & Ice)**

**Introduction to Medieval Archaeology**

and four new courses:

**Architecture Explored,  
Egyptology (Introduction to ancient Egypt)  
Introduction to Philosophy  
Japanese Encounters**

**Full Board Residential Delegates: £300** but bookings confirmed with £50 deposit by 31 March 2015 will qualify for an Early Bird Discount of £40; the balance of £210 due by 31 May 2015

**Non-Residential Day Delegate: £150;** £130 with Early Bird Discount; as above, £50 deposit by 31 March 2015 with the balance of £80 due by 31 May 2015

**Anyone who misses the Early Bird discount should send full payment by 31 May 2015**

Booking forms available at:

[www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west) If you have a query, contact:  
[davidbjoseph@btopenworld.com](mailto:davidbjoseph@btopenworld.com); 01625 861 327

