



MAY 2016 NEWSLETTER



CHAIRMAN'S

MESSAGE

Her Majesty the Queen is celebrating her 90th birthday on the very day that I am sitting at my computer to write my piece for the May newsletter. She is an inspiration for us all, mostly younger members, in our third age. After 90 years on this earth, many of which have been devoted to serving the people of this country, she still works long hours in order to fulfil the pledge she made at her coronation to serve the country to the end of her days. She rides, walks and has a mind and intellect as sharp as many people several decades younger than her. She is a superb example of what many of us can aspire to achieve as we get even older and I have no doubt that if she were a member of the Windsor, or Sandringham U3A, she would be an active member, involved at every level.

I, for one, am happy to raise a glass and wish Her Majesty the Queen a very happy 90th birthday!

Colin Burkitt



LUNCH CIRCLE

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 19th May 2016

12-15 pm for 12-30 pm

The Refreshment Rooms

Bedford Road, Rock Ferry. CH42 1LS



MEETINGS and SPEAKERS

12th May 2016 With my camera in Gujarat – Trisha King

26th May 2016 Come and meet 'One Eyed Jack & Captain Tina'

SOCIAL OUTINGS

Full booking details available at meetings, please see your social organisers at the back of the hall OR e-mail barbara@oxtonu3a.co.uk

REMINDERS

Monday 23 May 2016 Nordic Church & Centre
Meet outside James Street Station at 11-00 am
Cost (including lunch) £9-00

Tuesday 7 June 2016 Arley Hall & Gardens
Cost £8-00 plus coach fare

EVENTS - NOW BOOKING

Friday 22nd July 2016 Cruise to Salford Quays
3 course meal on board (special dietary needs must be advised)
Coach departs 9-15 am
Cost (inclusive) £33-00

DATE FOR YOUR DIARIES !!!!

Friday 16th December 2016 Christmas Lunch
Wirral Ladies Golf Club 12.00 for 12.30 pm
Cost to be advised, booking opening later in year.
KEEP THIS DATE FREE

THEATRE – BOOKING CLOSING

Monday 6th June 2016 The Government Inspector
Everyman Theatre 7-30 pm £15-00 **booking closing 28th April**

Tuesday 21st June 2016 Observe the Sons of Ulster Marching towards the Somme
Playhouse Theatre 7-30 pm £15-50 **booking closing shortly**

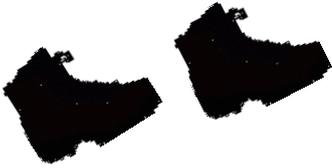
TICKETS READY FOR COLLECTION

Tuesday 24th May 2016 Merry Wives at Playhouse Theatre

Monday 11th July 2017 Merchant of Venice at Playhouse Theatre

*****PROPOSED NEW GROUP*****

SUNDAY SOLOS LUNCH GROUP – The proposed new group is aimed at members who may find themselves alone on a Sunday. It is planned to meet for lunch regularly on a Sunday, at a local venue. Any member who would be interested please contact Joan Farrell on 0151 201 8237



WALKING GROUP

FRIDAY 20TH MAY 2016

The two Barbaras have organised a walk around Calderstones Park, the various gardens, points of interest and onto Woolton Woods. The walk is mainly on good quality paths but in places it may be muddy especially if there has been any previous heavy rain. We meet at James Street Station at 10-10 am for a prompt 10-15 am start, then after walking approximately five miles and at around 1-30 pm we will be stopping for lunch at The Elephant in Woolton Village. After lunch walkers will have the option of walking a further two miles back to the start or alternatively catching the number 75 bus opposite The Elephant which will take you back to town.

Please put your name down on the list at the back of the Church Hall and indicate if you are staying for lunch, as the Barbaras have to give the exact number of diners to The Elephant in advance of the walk.

APRIL WALK AROUND BIDSTON MOSS - UNIQUE SCULPTURES !

Thanks to Tony for leading this walk.



SHORT STORY

FROM A SUPPLY TEACHER'S NOTEBOOK

"Can you go to St Jude's?" a representative from the teaching agency asked one summer morning. "They want an R.E teacher for a week."

After my retirement as Liverpool's Adviser for Religious Education I worked as a supply teacher for several years in Liverpool and its surrounding areas. I had been to St Jude's before. It was a large Roman Catholic Comprehensive school on the border between Liverpool and Knowsley. The children were lively but reasonably biddable and the staff were always supportive.

As I entered the fifties type tower block, which had a large statue of the Virgin Mary outside its main entrance, I met Jo Connolly, Head of Religious Education.

"Thanks for coming, Monica," she said with obvious relief. "You'll have Rose Dawson's classes today. Her work is cello taped to her desk in her room. Most of the classes are O.K but your first one is lively and one this afternoon is quite awful. I'll tell you about that one at lunch time."

It had been a late call so there was hardly time to leave my coat in the staffroom before finding my class. Luckily, I knew my way round the building and was entering the R.E corridor when I heard screams and yells erupting from the far end. Thirty noisy eleven year olds were fighting outside Rose Dawson's door. I roared at them and they subsided a bit though when I did get them into line a boy marched to the front and deliberately fell backwards causing the line to collapse. There was considerable swearing and abuse as the children picked themselves up.

"Miss, tell 'im!" A girl gave the troublemaker a hefty kick in the shins and I pulled her out of the line together with the boy she had kicked who was howling loudly.

"Stand over there both of you!" I snapped. "The rest of you stand up – NOW!"

Five minutes later they were all standing behind their desks in the classroom watching me warily as I let them know what I thought of their behaviour.

"Miss, 'oo are yer?" someone demanded.

I made them sit down and wrote my name on the board. I also established some rules.

"I don't like the look of yer." This was from Nathan, the boy I'd had to pull out of the line in the corridor.

"Tough!" I said and hastily consulted the work Rose Dawson had left. It said "Revise Moses and let them say and write out the Ten Commandments."

I supervised the giving out of books, provided pens for those who hadn't brought one and then asked "Put your hands up and tell me something about Moses."

Hands waved in the air accompanied by "Miss! Miss" from those most anxious to answer my request. I chose a lively boy at the back of the room.

"Moses gathered loads of animals together, Miss and put 'em in a boat on the River Nile," he told me.

There was instant denial from the class.

"No, 'e never. That were someone else," a girl sitting next to him objected.

"That were Noah."

"Me Dad's called Noah."

"Moses was a magician an' lived in Egypt."

“God spoke to ‘im in a burnin’ bus.”The girl who had delivered this information looked round at the class. Most of them nodded their agreement.

“An’ ‘e got killed in the River Nile.”

“No ‘e never. Miss, ‘e never. Moses brought them Israels out of Egypt.”

“She’s talkin’ through ‘er backside, Miss.”

Miss, Annie Williams said backside in front of a teacher.”

“Write it down, Miss.”

I duly remonstrated with Annie as was expected of me and asked for one more answer on Moses.

“‘E were a murderer, Miss an’ we acted it out for Miss Dawson. I hit Billy in the eye.” Terry was flexing his fingers and grinning.

“Can we act it out today, Miss?”

“No, there isn’t time because we’ve the ten Commandments to do,” I replied.

“Miss, we learned them for ‘omework.! “

I was besieged by offers to say them so decided to ask for one each. We’d be there all morning if I allowed each child to give me the full ten.

I chose one of the girls to start.

“You mustn’t do no stealin’ or you’ve ‘ad it.”

“What do you mean by “Had it?” I asked curiously.

“God’ll kill yer. Me Nan told me.”

“My Nan never says that but she says we’ll go to prison.”

“Our Sam’s in clink an’ ‘e’s got given a DVD player all to ‘imself. I’m thinkin’ of goin’ there when I’m older.”

“I hope not,” I told him.

“I’ll never get one of them players if i don’t.”

“Next Commandment, please,” I said.

“Thou shalt not cover thi’ neighbour’s wife.”

“The word is “Covet” I said and explained its meaning.

“Thou mustn’t do no addletery.!”

“Addletery?” I was confused for a moment.

“It’s what me Mam does with ‘im up the road when me Dad’s at sea,” Terry said helpfully. “Freddie’s Mam does it an’ all.”

Freddie was already on his feet glaring at Terry. Criticizing another boy’s mother is always an invitation to a fight and although Freddie had no idea what Addletery was he was determined Terry wasn’t going to get away with it.

I didn’t know the class well enough to give too much detail on Adultery but I explained briefly and ordered Freddie to sit down.

“Yer Mam’s an oar, Freddie,”Nathan Green said and Freddie was on his feet again, his expression belligerent.

“She’s an oower, one of them women ‘oo –“

“Enough!” I glared at Nathan. “Now, one more commandment and that’s it.”

“I’ve got one, Miss.” Christine spoke from the back of the class.”Thou shalt not lie down in green water.”

“Miss, she’s made that up.”

“It’s not one is it, Miss?”

“Me Nan says it is.”

“Miss, I know one. We’ve to honour our Mams and Dads.”

“Well, I don’t honour mine.”

I didn’t know who said that and when I asked no-one would admit to it. Such remarks are disturbing to say the least and I resolved to leave a note for their usual teacher.

I decided they should all write the Commandments down to avoid any further creative interruptions.

By Monica Price

TEA ROTA FOR THE NEXT 4 MEETINGS

12 th May 2016	Gwen Burrell	Jean Sheratt	Mary O’Neill
26 th May 2016	Ann Hillier	Kate Walton	Carol Burkitt
9 th June 2016	Jean Peters	Gill McCloy	Ian McCloy
23 rd June 2016	Maureen Jones	Mary Hamilton	Kathleen Pugh

Please ring me (Joan Benton) on 608 6226 if you are unable to do a duty.

IS IT SPRING?

Is it really Spring? There have been so many stops and starts, with late snow in remote places, that there seems to be some measure of uncertainty; but then uncertainty seems to be the order of the day at the moment. A bit of political certainty would be nice but I doubt that we are going to get it and then of course there is the question of age and health: If only I knew when my ‘off days’ were going to be, so I could mark them in my diary and leave myself free to be as ‘off’ as was physiologically necessary at the time. But no; they come and go as they will and at the most inconvenient times; and then of course there is always the issue of what other people get up to: a little predictability would not come amiss in that quarter.

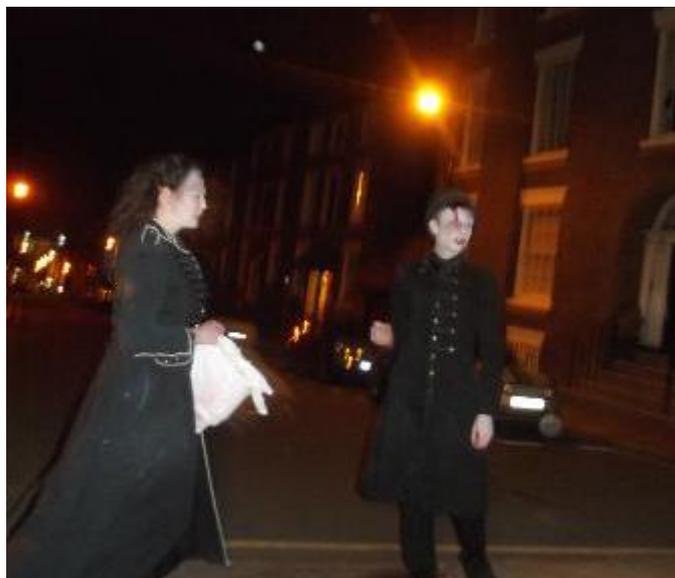
There is however a degree of certainty in how I react to this lack of security that I can do something about. I can accept things as they are rather than feeling disappointed because they are not as I would like them to be. Instead of sitting here wanting the sun to come out and illuminate the blossoms that are trying so hard to open in the grey, cold day and wishing I felt better, I can do what I am able within the conditions that prevail. That feels like a bit of quiet admin' or better still a cup of tea and an undemanding book or even just doing nothing. I am quite good at that. Then spring can be left to get on with it in its own way and time and one does not really need to be up to scratch to do nothing. Mind you it might not always be easy for people to do nothing. There is an art to it that could require a bit of learning but once you remember that it can be a truly viable option it can see one through all sorts of potentially difficult situations. After all we are supposed to be human-*beings* first and foremost, the doing bit is secondary and is surely improved by getting the first bit right before we start.

Meanwhile there is some certainty in the U3A. Those of us who are in it might come and go or not always be available but the organisation itself seems to be with us for the time being and that is a touch-stone we can be thankful for.

Brian Gill

OUR SHIVERPOOL GHOST WALK FRIDAY, 11th March.

After a welcome drink at the Philharmonic pub we met our tour Guide, the amazing Chiller Black, whose antics kept us laughing on our journey through Liverpool's dark past. In her black Gothic style outfit, carrying a large wand and smiling with her greyish teeth she called "Come along, Goblins" and led us through the streets of haunted Liverpool, interacting with us and members of the public on the way. It was all taken in good part. We learned about the ghosts which haunt Hope Street and Rodney street at night, the most macabre being William Mackenzie, who, in the nineteenth century was said to have gambled his soul away to the devil and is buried under a pyramid style structure in St Andrew's churchyard. Since he had sold his soul he is buried beneath his grave rather than in it and has been sighted forty times, walking down Hope Street in top hat and flowing robes.



A large bat flying overhead added to the tension as we left St Andrew's and the screams were incredible. Both Colin and Gerry joined in Chiller Black's theatrical performances. Colin bravely dipped his hand into a container of offal and it was covered in "blood" when he drew it out and Gerry's "saucy" behaviour was applauded by Chiller, who had taken a great fancy to him. From the site of the old workhouse by the Metropolitan Cathedral to the truly scary Anglican Cathedral cemetery we walked, accosted on the way by the spirits of vagabonds who brawled and gave blood curdling yells as they chased each other and fought. After the 90 minute tour we had excellent tapas and good conversation at the Pen Factory in Hope Street. It was an excellent tour and we saw street theatre at its best. I'd certainly recommend it. Thank you for arranging it, Barbara.

Monica Price



www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west

Registered Charity number 159091

MUSICAL MOMENTS

Led by Gill Russell (Regional Chair) and members of NW U3As

A day to investigate different ways to organise music in your u3a

Friday 13th May 2016. 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m.

at

**Hoylake Community Centre,
The Parade/ Hoyle Road
Hoylake, CH47 3AG**

Who is it for?	All U3A members
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Refreshments available from 10.30 a.m.

PROGRAMME

11.00 Guest speaker Andy Smith 'Life in the Music'

12:00 – 1.00 Lunch break – buffet lunch provided

1.00 – 2.30 workshops – *Please choose 2 from the following*

- Singing for Health and Pleasure
- Ukulele experience –have a go!
- Different ways to organise a music listening group
- Decoding Musical notation
-

2.30 – 2.45 refreshment break

2.45 – 3.30 – a Musical Timeline – a brief explanation of music history

The cost is £10 (includes lunch)

FILL IN THE APPLICATION FORM BELOW

Please enclose a cheque for £10 payable to: **North West Region of U3As**

Please return this form and payment at the earliest opportunity to:
G. Russell, 71 Barn Hey Crescent, Wirral, CH47 9RW

For more information call Gill 0151 633 2796 or email gillruss71@gmail.com

Name:	
Address:	
Telephone Number:	
Email:	
U3A:	

Please select your afternoon sessions.	
First choice	
Second choice	

North West Regional Summer School 2016

Newton Rigg Agricultural College, near Penrith

Tuesday August 30th – Friday September 2nd

Courses include

Art *Architecture* *Medieval Archaeology* *The Works of Elizabeth Gaskell*

Recorder *Ukulele* *Japanese Encounters* *Geology*

Costs: early bird discount for all bookings before May 31st.

Residential (*in student accommodation*)

£275 (with discount: £240)

Non-residential: £155 (£120)

Includes tuition fees, gala dinner, evening activities and entertainment.

For details and registration please go to the North West Regional website

u3asites.org.uk/north-west Or phone David Joseph: 07831473157
