



## MAY 2017 NEWSLETTER

### CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Unfortunately all good things must come to an end, and our recent AGM signalled the end of Colin's role as our Chairman. For the past three years Colin has served Oxton & Prenton U3A with total commitment, enthusiasm, diligence and sheer hard work and there is absolutely no doubt that he has done a magnificent job, therefore on behalf of us all I offer him our gratitude and thanks.

Alas I will also no longer be Newsletter Editor but I am pleased to say that another very long standing member, Eliane Davie, has agreed to take my place. Thank you to everyone who has submitted an article, written a story, sent me a photograph or emailed me your enjoyment and thanks, you have all made the job very worthwhile, please do the same for Eliane.

As most of you are aware I now have the honour of being your Chairman for the next three years. I joined this U3A over eight years ago and I am a huge believer that you receive in greater measure more than you put in. In that time I have served in numerous roles, from Treasurer to Newsletter Editor and have thoroughly enjoyed each role. I know that we have always had excellent Chairman in our U3A since its inception and I am under no illusions that each one is a very hard act to follow, especially the last one. However I feel, with your support and encouragement, I will enjoy my new role and I hope and trust that in this, the tenth anniversary year of our U3A, I will not let you down.

Sandra Lakin  
Chairman

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### LUNCH CIRCLE

The lunch circle will meet on 16<sup>th</sup> May 2017 at 12-00 for 12-30

The Refreshment Rooms, Rock Ferry, CH42 1LS



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## **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](mailto:barbara@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

### **EVENTS NOW BOOKING**

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> May 2017

**LYME PARK**

Annual Visit in support of the Gardening Group

Costs NT Members entrance FREE

Non NT Members £9-50

ALL TO PAY COACH £10-00

Will depart TWPG 9-30 am

Plenty of time to explore House & Gardens and of course have lunch. Home around 6-00 pm

**Fully booked – reserve list only**

Friday 14<sup>th</sup> July 2017

**‘THE FLOATING GRACE’ – OUR SUMMER CRUISE**

Departs Salthouse Docks at 1-00 pm and ends at 3-30 pm

Cruise through all 8 historic Liverpool Docks aboard Liverpool’s only floating restaurant, whilst enjoying a 2 course meal.

**PLEASE BOOK ASAP TO ENSURE THIS CRUISE GOES AHEAD**

Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September 2017

**NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM**

Depart 8-30 am Home approx 6-00 pm

Cost £27-00 includes entrance and coach

### **THEATRE**

Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> May 2017

**BILLY ELLIOT – first UK tour**

Liverpool Empire at 2-30 pm

**Booking closed collect your tickets and meet at theatre**

Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2017

**THE RED SHOES – Latest Matthew Bourne production**

Liverpool Empire at 2-30 pm

**Booking closed collect your tickets and meet at theatre**

Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> October 2017

**NEW ENGLISH NATIONAL BALLET**

**AKRAM KHAN’S GISELLE**

Liverpool Empire at 2-00 pm Tickets £11-50

Wednesday 29<sup>th</sup> Nov 2017

**WARHORSE at Liverpool Empire at 2-30 pm**

Tickets £45-50 (best price available)

**Booking closing 25<sup>th</sup> May Full payment MUST be received by this date**

***Wow our summer cruise looks good this year, why not check it out at;***

**[www.floatinggrace.co.uk](http://www.floatinggrace.co.uk)**

***then please book as soon as possible please to ensure it goes ahead***

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**MEETINGS and SPEAKERS**

11<sup>th</sup> MAY 2017      Speaker:                      Bernard Dennis      The Story of the Longbow

Few of us have any idea of the extent to which the long bow has affected our language and culture. It has been such an integral part of our history for so long that to understand this is to gain special insight into the way we are today.

25<sup>th</sup> May 2017      Social Morning:      Holy Name Singalong Group

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**WALKING GROUP**

**FRIDAY 19<sup>TH</sup> MAY – HESWALL AND PARKGATE**

Colin will lead a walk from Lower Heswall to and around the Parkgate and Ness area, total of 6 miles. There are no hills at all on this walk, and no stiles. We will walk mainly on footpaths and tracks. There are toilet facilities about 1 hour into the walk. **MEET IN LOWER HESWALL BY THE CHURCH HALL FOR A 10-30am START – lunch booked for 2pm.**

As per the March walk there is unrestricted parking outside the shops in Lower Heswall and just up the road beside the Black Horse pub. Parking is very limited in the Dee View pub so please do not block out their car park to other customers.

By popular request, lunch will be at the Dee View Inn in Lower Heswall. Lunch is Steak and Ale pie, chips and sandwiches at £5 per head. Please let me know in advance if you are not staying for lunch as I have to let the pub know a few days before. Carol will collect your lunch money at the start of the walk.

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**TEA & COFFEE ROTA MARCH 2017**

11 May 2017      Steve Cottam                      Dorothy Mathews                      Eve Felton

25 May 2017      Sue Phillips                      Carol Burkitt                      Ann Hillier

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

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**NEW GROUP FOR BUDDING PLAYERS !!**

John Bews from Heswall U3A would like to know if any of our members are interested in Walking Football, Tuesday afternoons at Tranmere Rovers ground. Anyone interested should contact John direct at [johnbews@btinternet.com](mailto:johnbews@btinternet.com)

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## **BRIAN'S MUSINGS**

In May we make the leap from spring to high summer, when nature appears to be at its best. With human beings, whatever the season, one might be justified in assuming that such a leap has yet to be made. What exactly is our best? Science assures us that we are still evolving. I am very glad to hear it. You know where you are with a packet of seeds as they often come with a nice picture on the packet but if on the packet it said that the plant was still evolving and we are not sure what it will end up like, we might think twice before committing ourselves to attempting to rear it.

I can remember when we had Maypoles. Of course their use was limited to children of Primary School age to avoid any complications that might develop should their original function as symbols of fertility ever be realised; especially given that any child conceived on May-Day-Eve would belong to the fairies. More importantly, Maypoles embodied the creative struggle and tension that ensues whenever energy attempts to take on form. The Large Hadron Collider at Cern is devoted to research into this very issue. A Maypole would have been considerably cheaper. It demonstrates how energy, as life and consciousness, when taking on form, does so through a variety of creative patterns to which we humans can respond. (Energy as pattern can easily be demonstrated in a laboratory.) So what, one might ask, are the patterns that might guide our development? Both science and religion have attempted to define them but we still seem to be in a mess and some might argue that we are getting worse when they listen to the news.

For the reasons indicated above I have mistakenly tried to introduce Maypole dancing to adults. I've had several goes. It does not work; at least not for me. Highly qualified, professional people with families and successful careers behind them know better than any metaphor for the primal act of creation that I or the Large Hadron Collider might try to impress upon them. They either cannot or will not conform to the patterns that are traditionally there to be acted out and experienced. What I got was a group of people doing what they thought was the right thing only to end up bumping into each other and going nowhere and on one occasion ending up in a heap on the floor. Needless to say the strings or ribbons they were holding on to got hopelessly tangled. It takes ages to sort them out before one can have another go.

As a psychologist I have spent some time and energy trying to identify some of the basic patterns to which we might conform either to our detriment or to our advantage and trying to untangle the strings before one can even begin. I do not doubt that the patterns are there, (we refer to them as algorithms now-a-days) but I do doubt how we identify and define them and am saddened by our reluctance to leave spaces for new patterns to emerge. It's a good thing that U3A can offer us a very viable collection of algorithms to be going on with.

Brian Gill

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## **WALKING GROUP 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL**

Whose house is this? Answers on the back of a £50-00 note please 😊

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**PHOTGRAPHS FROM RECENT MERSEY TUNNEL TOUR**



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**VISIT TO WEAVER HALL MUSEUM AND THE LION SALT WORKS 20 APRIL 2017**

The Weaver Hall Museum on the site of a former workhouse had many exhibits showing not only how life was like in The Workhouse, but also how the extraction of salt led to further industrial development, the increase of the use of canals and waterways, which gave work both in the local villages and increased trade with The Commonwealth.



The Lion Salt Works which closed in June 1986 is now a popular venue and the tour has access to the Stove House and Pan Houses. This was the Country's last traditional open-pan salt making site.

Today you can see how salt shaped the landscape, by taking the Saltscape Trail. More information and to plan a visit

[www.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk](http://www.westcheshiremuseums.co.uk)

The social history was fascinating. My maternal family are related to the Boughey Family of Audlem and Barthomley, several of whom for many generations were stone cutters. I was delighted to be in the area and be more aware of how difficult life must have been and be grateful times have changed.



We had a very interesting day discovering Cheshire's salt making story, many thanks to Barbara Lloyd for organising it. Gill Dong



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Gwyneth and Val busy promoting our U3A at Wirral Holistic Services Spring Fair



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# North West Region of U3As

Invite applications for their Residential Summer School  
29<sup>th</sup> August – 1<sup>st</sup> September 2017

At Newton Rigg College, Penrith,  
Cumbria, CA11 0AH

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



Newton Rigg College is located close to J40 of the M6 and less than five minutes' drive from Penrith Railway Station. The campus, which is just ten minutes from Ullswater, has modern facilities, student en-suite rooms with Wi-Fi access. Food is locally sourced and prepared on the premises. A large room is available for meeting and socialising. There will be entertainment on the second evening and a "Gala Dinner" on the third and final evening

The ten courses on offer include those which have proved popular in previous years and a number of new courses. Course titles are: **About Beauty, Architecture: The ABC of Cities, Digital Digging for Armchair Archaeologists, Geology of Lakeland Landscapes, Painting with Stitches, Medicine in the 21<sup>st</sup> Century, Recorder Playing, Russian and Soviet Culture, Science is for Everyone, Ukulele for Beginners**

**Full Board Residential Delegate; £275** We include a welcome reception, full board for three nights (including dinner on the 1st September), breakfast, morning coffee and lunch on 2nd September.

**Non-Residential Day Delegate: £155** includes lunches, teas and coffees, (excludes breakfast (£8.00) a 2 course dinner (£16.00) and Thursdays' Gala Dinner £24.00. **If any of these meals are required they must be booked in advance and would be subject to an additional charge. Alternatively, Accommodation is available at the Travelodge /local B&B's or Hotels.** Full details of the costs for the school are set out in the Booking Notes.

An Application form, obtained from our Website, must be completed and sent with a deposit cheque for £50.

Any member booking and paying their deposit of £50 no later than 31<sup>st</sup> May 2017 will attract a discount on the above figures of £35 (Full Board Residential Delegate) and £35 (Non-Residential Day Delegate) *Any queries should be directed to Neil Stevenson on 01744 895723 or [ndstevenson@hotmail.com](mailto:ndstevenson@hotmail.com)*

## **PLEASE NOTE;**

It has been suggested that if any of our members are going to the summer school it might be a good idea for them to meet up prior to the event. The idea being that maybe travelling could be shared or at least they could get to know each other in advance of the school. Please let me know if you are thinking of going and would find it helpful to meet others from our U3A who are also going.



[chairman@oxtonu3a.net](mailto:chairman@oxtonu3a.net)



**Friday May 19<sup>th</sup>. Finance and Charity Law**

Venue: Quaker meetinghouse, Liverpool.  
Presenter John Ellison, National Treasurer.  
Registration form is on the Regional website

**Wednesday June 7<sup>th</sup>. North West Regional AGM and Conference**

Venue: Quaker Meeting House, Manchester.

Breakout groups will include

- Top Tips for Treasurers (John Ellison, National Treasurer)
- Being a U3A Trustee (Gill Russell, Regional Trustee)
- Research (John Kaye)

Entertainment (to be confirmed)

Guest speaker Neil Smith – ‘Have Guitar will Travel’

More details in next newsletter

**Wednesday June 21<sup>st</sup>. Learning in the Future**

A look at MOOCs (Massive Open Online Courses) – a way of using the internet to assist learning.

Venue: Gateway Centre, Warrington. Presenter Ian Hunt. Flyer and registration details are on the website

**August 29<sup>th</sup>- September 1<sup>st</sup>. Don't forget the North West Regional Summer School. Newton Rigg Near Penrith.**

Course details and registration form are available on the website. Registration is going very well so if there's something you're interested in book quickly. There's a discount if you book before the end of May.

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**FINALLY.....**

**IMPORTANT NOTICE ABOUT CAR PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT THE CHURCH HALL**

Contractors have started replacing the Church roof; the work will take until the end of June if all goes according to plan.

**PARKING AT THE CHURCH HALL WILL BE EXTREMELY LIMITED**

**UNLESS YOU HAVE LIMITED MOBILITY PLEASE PARK IN ADJACENT ROADS AND WALK TO THE HALL.**

THE RAMP AND STAIRLIFT WILL NOT BE AVAILABLE TO WHEELCHAIR USERS who will have to park in Beresford Road and use the back entrance into the hall.

TWPG Church apologises for any inconvenience whilst this essential work is carried out.

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