



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

The autumnal feel is definitely in the air, the leaves on the trees are changing colour and, although I love to see Mother Nature's glorious display of all the rich colours of gold, brown and orange, I often feel a little melancholy at this time of year and begin to dread the diminishing daylight hours and the long winter evenings. But there is at the moment so much to look forward to that I am approaching October with a feeling of anticipation and excitement.

Why, you may ask, well this October our U3A Group celebrates its tenth birthday. I feel we are so fortunate in our U3A, such a friendly welcoming bunch of members who never fail to support those of us in Committee and always ready to welcome and greet new members. Some 98 of you will be attending our official big birthday lunch at Prenton Golf Club on 13th October but as your Chairman it is my privilege to invite you all to a second more informal celebration of our special birthday. I do so look forward to seeing you all there.

Sandra Lakin, Chairman

*** INVITATION TO ALL OUR MEMBERS ***

PLEASE COME TO OUR 10TH BIRTHDAY PARTY

WHEN: 26TH OCTOBER 2017 10-00 am – 12-00 noon

WHERE: TWPG CHURCH HALL

DRESS CODE: INFORMAL

**Please come and join us for a morning of happy memories, reminiscences,
fun, and laughter and audience participation**

RSVP OXTON, PRENTON & DISTRICT U3A

SEE YOU ALL ON 26TH OCTOBER

However, because we are celebrating our anniversary, this also means that it is also **ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTION RENEWAL TIME** and 26th October will be everyone's first chance to renew. Consequently it is going to be extremely busy at the entrance desk and I am asking you all to please make Gwyneth's task as easy as possible for her. Subscription is £12-00 per person and we ask that you come prepared with, preferably cheques made out to Oxton, Prenton & District U3A, or the correct amount of £12-00. Please **DO NOT** expect Gwyneth to have sufficient monies to give change.

We are expecting visitors from other U3A's in the Wirral Network to be attending so please give them a warm Oxton welcome.

Sandra Lakin

Chairman

BRIAN'S MUSINGS

For our Celtic ancestors the year ended as this month came to a close. As usual with the Celts it had to do with pasturing sheep but even for those of us who have failed to invest in this form of wealth the Celtic calendar makes some sort of sense. The clocks go back and the basic rhythm of life shifts significantly. With our barns and stockyards full, it is a good time to make a profound inner adjustment in order to face the winter ahead.

I have to admit though to not having taken advantage of the summer when it was here and often felt guilty about being indoors when the weather was fine and the garden needed attention. There is this to be said about winter: if one is warm and dry indoors there is generally not the slightest need to feel guilt about it.

Interestingly our Celtic ancestors understood that one would not be able to face the long, dark nights that lay ahead if one had not first faced, and come to terms with one's own inner demons. Facing ones fears was essential to psycho/spiritual health. I rather fear that the American version of Halloween that we currently endure is hardly fit for purpose. Marauding bands of children demanding sweets and/or hard cash under threat of violence, falls somewhat wide of the mark; though the fears that they manage to instil in me are real enough. I fear that they are being educated to believe that it is acceptable to run a neighbourhood protection racket on the lines of: 'pay up or else!' and I fear that a festival that had profound psycho-spiritual significance has been reduced to one of extortion and self-gratification as a means of confronting 'the dreadful' and thereby replacing it with something worse. But that, no doubt, is the way the world wags.

Now is the time of lighting candles and I am reminded that it is better by far to light one small candle than to curse the darkness. Of course it is generally easier and sometimes more fun, to curse than to hold a negative situation in consciousness. That takes a bit of effort. At a time when the demons of division and duplicity seem to be rife amongst us, a flame that burns steady and true has never been more needed

Brian Gill

LUNCH CIRCLE

Dates to December are as follows: All are to meet at 12 noon to sit at 12.30

Tuesday October 17th 2017 The Carnarvon Castle, Bidston Rd.

Tuesday November 21st 2017 The Shippons, Irby

There is no lunch Circle meeting in December as we have the Christmas Dinner



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

EVENTS NOW BOOKING **IMPORTANT NOTICE**

**No bookings or reservations can be taken without payment.
This is necessary in order to be fair to all our members**

Full booking details available @ meetings. See your social organizers.

EVENTS

Final arrangements

10th Birthday Celebration Lunch

Prenton Golf club

Golf Links Road PRENTON CH42 8LW

Friday 13 October 12.00 noon for 12.30pm

Smart dress please

Hot & Cold Buffet

Short reminiscences followed by 'Andy Smith'

Who will present his after dinner talk

"My life in Music"

Looking forward to seeing you all there

This year's Christmas lunch is on

FRIDAY 15 DECEMBER

12.00 noon for 12.30 pm

Venue: The Arthur J Gallagher Platinum lounge

@ Tranmere Rovers

Full payment on booking £24

Spirit of Christmas (Carol concert)

Liverpool Philharmonic Hall

Tuesday 19 December @ 7.30pm

Tickets £24

THEATRE

BOOKING CLOSED &

Tickets available for collection for the following Theatre events

THE TIN DRUM

Based on the epic novel by Gunter Grass

Liverpool EVERYMAN

Wednesday 4 OCTOBER @ 7.30pm

Collect tickets and meet at theatre

GISELLE

Liverpool Empire
Thursday 26 October @ 2.00pm
Collect tickets and meet at theatre

WARHORSE

Liverpool Empire
Wednesday 29 November
@ 2.30 pm
Meet at theatre

MEETINGS and SPEAKERS 2017

- Thursday 12th October - The Seven Deadly Sins - Michael Burges
- Thursday 26th October - Social Meeting and Subs renewal. Birthday cake and Colin’s Presentation.
- Thursday 9th November - Joyce’s War: Insights From a War-time Journal - Rhiannon Evans
- Thursday 23rd November - Behind the Scenes of Cunard’s Three Queens’ Spectacular - Tony Storey
- Thursday 7th December - The Curious Origins of Our Christmas Traditions – Ken Pye

VISIT TO THE EMPIRE THEATRE - “CILLA”

On Wednesday 13th September, fourteen members of our “young at heart” Oxton U3A braved the stormy weather to attend a performance of “Cilla” at the Liverpool Empire.

Many of us had not been in “the gods” for a while and arrived a little breathless. However, once seated, we settled down to enjoy the show. And what a show they gave us.

This is a stage adaptation of the mini series written by Jeff Pope. It tells the familiar story of how a working class scouser became a beloved household name.

What we may not have been aware of was how driven and possibly ruthless Priscilla White needed to be to achieve this success. A chance introduction by John Lennon to Brian Epstein was to change her life forever. She changed her name to Cilla Black, gave up her office job and went to London to record with George Martin – not an easy achievement for a working class girl in the sixties. She was loyally accompanied by Bobby Willis, whom she later married.

We were treated to the wonderful songs which propelled Cilla to the Number One slot in the charts – *Anyone Who Had a Heart, Alfie, Something Tells Me* etc.. These songs were cleverly woven into the story and became part of the narrative, together with Brian Epstein, the Beatles and other bands popular at that time. Kara Lily Hayworth (Cilla) had a fantastic voice as did many of the other members of the cast.

We, in the gods, did not dance in the aisles but certainly had a wonderful, (if loud) trip down Memory Lane.

Thank you Barbara, for organising this event

Monica Toosey

BEGINNERS BRIDGE

Tony Swarbrick has formed a group for those who have never played bridge before and for those who have played previously but want to brush up their skills.

BEGINNERS BRIDGE:

WHEN: Friday afternoons twice monthly; dates vary so as not to clash with walks or outings.

TIME: 1-4 p.m.

WHERE: 12 Eleanor Road, Moreton, Wirral CH46 7SB

GROUP LEADER: Tony Swarbrick phone: 0151 378 7872

DATES FOR 2017: October 6th, October 27th, November 10th, November 24th, December 1st, December 8th

NEW MEMBERS PLEASE PHONE TO CHECK DATES.

Creative Writing Group

SHORT STORY

One mile beyond the Lancashire town of Wigan is the small township of Ince in Makerfield which, during the 19th century, a visiting French Emperor called "The Vale Of Flowers." History records that it was indeed an area of exceptional loveliness and was a much loved beauty spot in those days. It certainly was not beautiful in the 1940s and 50s when I grew up there but it had schools and shops and factories and, if not exactly lively, it fulfilled our needs at the time. It was home.

In the 1940s schools finished at 4pm and in the winter months twilight was falling as those of us who lived at the far end of the town reached the railway station, a place which terrified every child in the area. Rumour had it that a witch, Owd Nanny Greenteeth, was waiting in the long dark entrance hall to grab children if they got too close. We would automatically cross the road when the station came in sight and although some of the boys would dare each other to run in, no-one ever did because a faint green glow – Nanny Greenteeth – showed that she was waiting.

One stormy November evening it was raining so hard that we would all have loved to take refuge in the station on our way home but only Albert, a nine year old boy who was older than us dared to do so. Albert had to ferry his two younger sisters to and from school every day and they had much further to go than the rest of us. They had gone to school without coats that day and were drenched and shivering with cold by the time the station came in sight.

"Gerrin here you two," Albert ordered as he stepped boldly into the entrance hall. When the girls just stared at their brother but didn't move he lunged at them and grabbed their arms.

Albert's sisters, Christina and Ellie, screamed in terror as their brother dragged them into the station and the rest of us ran for it - impressed by Albert's daring but terrified that Albert would drag us in as well.

Albert quietened his sisters – no doubt with a smack or two – and, in the account he gave to everyone later, he had to hold on to the girls firmly to prevent them from taking off into the rainy night. The green glow we all fantasised about was only a few yards away and Albert suddenly realised what it was and turned his sisters to face it. "It's nowt but the gas lamp thi soft haporths," he told them but as the girls turned round, still crying, a strange figure dressed in green appeared from nowhere and began to hurry towards them.

“It’s Owd Nanny Greenteeth,” screamed Christina and tried to drag her brother away but Albert stood his ground. The stranger was certainly a woman but as she drew nearer there was nothing scary about her and she held out her hands to the children.

“Don’t be frightened,” she said softly and Albert thought later that it was a miracle they heard her, with the noises of the storm outside and his sisters’ loud crying.

“Shut thi gobs!” he ordered sharply. “There’s nowt to be scared of.”

The girls were suddenly quiet and when Albert stepped forward to meet the stranger they didn’t hang back.

“The storm has uprooted a large tree about a mile down the track and it’s fallen across the line,” she said. “A train from Liverpool will be along in twenty minutes and it’s so dark it will go straight into it. Run down and tell the station master to alert the men in the signal box to stop the train or there’ll be a terrible accident.”

Albert, followed by his sisters, ran down the steps on to the platform. He found the station master’s office but although he banged hard on the door and the window, there was no response. He could hear a radio blaring inside but Mr. Robinson, the station master, was nowhere to be seen.

“He’ll probably come out just in time for the train,” Albert said, thinking the woman in green was behind him but there was no sign of her. He banged again on the window, this time bringing out the angry station master who began to shout but stopped when Albert blurted out what had happened. Then Mr Robinson acted quickly. He bundled the children into his office, then picked up a telephone attached to the wall. The children listened fascinated as he spoke rapidly into the receiver. He replaced it and turned to Albert.

“If what you say is true many lives will be saved tonight,” he said and at that point his telephone buzzed. When he had finished speaking to whoever was at the other end he said “They’ve done it. They’ve stopped the train. Thanks to you children the passengers are safe.”

“It wasn’t really us,” Albert told him. “It was a woman up at the entrance who told us to come an’ tell you.”

The woman in green was never found. Albert and his sisters’ pictures were in all the papers and they received awards from the town council and were asked to tell their story over and over again.

“Who do you think the lady in green was?” he was asked by our Head teacher at school a few days later when he was asked to stand in front of the whole school and tell us all about it.

“We thought it was Owd Nanny Greenteeth, the witch that lives in the station,” Albert explained. “If it *was* her she was kind, she wasn’t out to get us,” he added.

When our teachers heard about Owd Nanny they thought Albert was braver than ever to go into the station when the rest of us wouldn’t set foot in there.

For a while we didn’t cross the road when we reached the station. We were all curious to see the lady in green but she didn’t appear again and the story passed into legend. All the grown-ups thought Albert and his sisters had imagined her but when we left Albert and his sisters at the station that evening they knew nothing about the tree on the railway line so how could they have known unless someone told them?

Monica Price

WALKING GROUP

On August 18th Gerry and Barbara organized a new type of walk for those of us free to take part; a Treasure Hunt. We met at the Hinderton Arms where we were split into teams of three or four and given our clues for a circular walk around the Neston area. We departed at five minute intervals and followed our individual routes. We had to take photos at selected spots to prove that we had been there and were timed as we eventually returned to the pub for lunch.

The walk was approximately five miles in length and proved very interesting; it is surprising how much one never notices driving around. Gerry and Barbara had put in a considerable amount of work researching and printing out clues to guide us along our routes to say nothing of the timing and checking everyone's photos etc. There were thirty four clues in all so we all had to keep our eyes open; I was teamed up with Sandra and Chris and we caught up with Ken, Marian and Tony who had left before us, so we had the benefit of extra eyes! We started last and returned first, though not by much.

Everyone put a pound in the kitty for the winners, us, so it was a most enjoyable (and profitable) morning. Many thanks to Gerry and Barbara – perhaps another next year is in order?

Eliane Davie

SEPTEMBER WALK

On September 15th Sandra and Chris led a lovely walk starting from The Harp pub at Little Neston. We were really fortunate as the rain held off for us and we were able to enjoy some lovely scenery and, as often happens, many of us saw areas we had never known existed. The Harp is a really old, traditional pub and quite small, but although we were quite a large group to descend on them, the landlady produced some excellent fare. Our thanks to Sandra and Chris for planning it.

Eliane Davie

The October walk

FRIDAY 20TH OCTOBER 2017 Gwyneth and Corinne will lead a circular walk from the Cottage Loaf at Thurstaston. This walk will be available to sign up to at our next meeting. I will send around more details when I receive them.

FRIDAY 17TH NOVEMBER 2017 – WOOLTON CIRCULAR. We meet at Liverpool Parkway station main concourse at 10:45am, this should allow ample time for all walkers to get the train from their home station on their Merseytravel pass. We will walk through parkland, with good views over the Mersey, to Woolton for a lunch stop. After lunch we will walk back to the train station via Strawberry Fields and Calderstones Park.

THURSDAY 14th DECEMBER 2017 – CHRISTMAS WALK As our annual Christmas dinner is on our normal walking day the Christmas walk has been brought forward by 1 day. As in previous years we meet at 11am at our house in Forest Road for a local walk with lunch back at home about 1pm. Nearer the date Carol will put out a request for contributions of soup, mince pies, mulled wine, etc.

Mobile: Colin – 0743 4284666 Carol – 0757 0492993. Landline: 0151 651 2947

Email: carol.colin@talktalk.net

COLIN BURKITT

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

October 18th 2017 IN THE SESSION ROOM

MICHELANGELO: THE SISTINE CHAPEL

The Art Appreciation group visited the Tate Modern Gallery in Liverpool on September 20th, where an exhibition called *PORTRAYING A NATION 1919 – 1933* was being shown. There were over 300 works by the German artist Otto Dix and the photographer August Sander who each captured and documented the radical extremes of Weimar republic Germany's inter-war years.

It was very impressive: the large photographic section covered pictures of all strata of German society. Country folk, business people, children, prostitutes; were all represented giving some insight as to the lives of a cross section of the German People of that time. Above and around the photographs a history of the development of the Nazi movement indicated how it came about; quite thought provoking.

The paintings section revealed an astonishing variety of styles that the painter, Otto Dix, had experimented with over the years starting with sketches from the Front in WW1 and covering fantasy, family portraits, prostitutes in a variety of mediums.

The talk that John gave us before was, as always from this knowledgeable speaker, enthusiastic and most enlightening; a huge help in getting the most out of our visit. Few of us were familiar with the painter's works so it was invaluable.

Many thanks to Bernadette and Jutta for organizing yet another great experience.

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA – OCTOBER/NOVEMBER

12 OCTOBER	Greg Roberts - John Roberts - Aileen Hunton
26 OCTOBER	Gwen Burrell - Jean Sheratt - Dorothy Mathews
9 NOVEMBER	Valerie Edwards - Doreen Alig - Ursula Cook
23 NOVEMBER	Mary Potter - Sandy Anderson - Rod Paddock

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

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

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MUSIC MAKERS

Monday 11th December 2017 10.30am - 4.00pm

Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool

Cost £8.00 (lunch not included)

Programme

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- 10.30 - 11.00 Welcome and refreshments**
- 11.00 - 12.00 Performance by Andrew Wilde**
- 12.00 - 1.15 Lunch (not provided)**
- 1.15 - 2.15 Workshops led by U3A members**
- Recorders (improvers)**
 - Ukulele (improvers)**
 - Singing (no experience necessary)**
 - Music Appreciation**
- 2.15 - 2.45 Short performances by workshop groups**
- 2.45 - 3.00 Refreshments**
- 3.00 - 4.00 'The Magical Musical Mystery Tour' with
Chris Devereux**

Further details and booking arrangements are available on the events page of the Regional Website or from Gill at:

gillruss71@gmail.com www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west

PARTICIPANTS NEEDED FOR MEMORY EXPERIMENT!

Are you an aged 50 or above?

Are you interested in helping “memory and ageing” research?

Great!!! You may be eligible to participate in a study at Liverpool John Moores University exploring how individual memory strategies predict future cognitive decline.

The procedure lasts approximately 1 hour and it includes some “pencil and paper” and “computer-based” tests to evaluate your cognitive functioning.

All participants are reimbursed for their time with a £10 Tesco or Amazon voucher and free car spaces are available at the campus, if needed!

** Consecutive bookings are available for couples or friends!

Please, contact Deborah Talamonti for further information:

Deborah	e mail	D.Talamonti@2016.ljmu.ac.uk
	telephone	07864945084

CHRISTMAS CHARITY

Our Christmas charity this year will be for the **Ferries Family Group** which Eve supports via her daughter who works there. If you would like further information regarding the group, go to: www.ferriesfamilygroups.org.uk

Eve’s daughter, Helen, will talk to us on September 28th to let us know what sort of gifts are required. We usually bring a shoe box full of loose gifts which can be sorted.

CAR PARKING RESTRICTIONS AT THE CHURCH HALL

I understand that the church roof repairs should be completed by the end of September so hopefully parking will be back to normal by then.

AND FINALLY.....

If anyone has an unusual holiday experience that might be interesting to our membership I would love you to e-mail it (or photo) to me – preferably in a file – to include in the next newsletter.

I hope that you have all spent an enjoyable summer!

Eliane Davie e-mail elianedavie@hotmail.co.uk

