



NOVEMBER

NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

My mind always goes completely blank when I sit facing the computer screen trying to think of something to write about in the current month's newsletter. I began thinking about our members and all the amazing knowledge they have and varying talents they possess (my own talents being few and far between), then I thought maybe I could make full use of this untapped resource. So my challenge to you all is to dig deep and tell me about it! It may be that you did a very interesting job in your past, filled with varying experiences or even possibly famous people. It may be that you have an unusual hobby that you could tell me about; are you obsessed with art, history, poetry or geography, have you been on an unusual and interesting holiday or have you got a very special talent? Maybe you could tell the Group all about it at one of our Thursday mornings or if you prefer you could tell us about it in our Newsletter. Whatever it is I would like to hear from you, so don't be shy and reticent nor hide you lights under a bushel, put pen to paper or, more than likely, put fingers to keyboard and let me know.

Sandra Lakin
Chairman

BRIAN'S MUSINGS

If nothing else we can be sure that November will begin with a bang. This is not good news in our house as we have a neurotic dog who reacts to bangs however, wherever and whenever they might occur. To be fair we also have three neurotic cats as well but they seem to be mercifully bang-proof; though they find plenty of other ways in which to manifest strange behaviour. Fortunately, being something of a psychologist, the entire zoo gives me the opportunity to practice my analytical and therapeutic skills and keep myself up to the mark. In the case of the dog, allowing her to climb onto the sofa seems to do the trick, but of course this only works when we are at home. In public places sofas are few and far between and even when available not everyone wants a large, anxious



dog in situ. She has my sympathy. I'm not too fond of bangs myself, I say this having spent some time in a culture where society seemed to be incapable of functioning without a regular explosive assault on the ear drums. Here it happens once a year, (more or less), and we learn to bear it; in Spain it is an on-going occurrence. But Spain is not alone in needing to mark significant events with explosive fire; failing that, drumming or almost any other loud noise will do. I don't think human beings are entirely alone in this but we are, almost certainly, the best at it; or the worst, depending on one's point of view. We like to think that on November the fifth we are celebrating the deliverance of our parliament from an explosive annihilation by Guy Fawkes but, as previously pointed out, the event coincides with the Celtic 'No Time' and the beginning of the Celtic New Year. There have long been fires at this festival but we needed a non-pagan reason for continuing to light them. Mr Fawkes would no doubt be gratified to know that now-a-days governments seem to self-destruct without needing to resort to gun-powder. Of course, out there in the universe stars are exploding all the time and no doubt our own sun makes a bit of a din going off all the time, as it does, and yet alone on a starry night and away from human pollution, all is quiet and still and I wonder what it is in the human psyche that needs to rend that stillness open, wounding it with extraneous noise? We seem to need to force the universe to acknowledge that we exist: to little avail. Having been something of a sky watcher I have been fortunate in having seen three neutron bursts. They happen in less than a second and in that time an entire galaxy can be destroyed by their power. Nevertheless the night sky remains serene. The universe continues as it has always done, allowing as it does so for many such events, together with countless black holes and any number of other annihilating incidents. I mention this, not to create alarm and despondency but to try to account for the urge we humans seem to have to blow things up, either for fun or for somewhat meaner motives. In that we are an extension of that same creation, (science tells us that we are made from stars), and it is probably only natural that in our own small way, we might be inclined to behave like them. Even so, with the gift of consciousness I like to think that we have a degree of choice. I learned only today that there are stars, virtually invisible to the human eye, that seem to burn steadily, though undramatically, virtually forever. They do not go 'supernova' prior to becoming 'red dwarfs', they do not implode or become neutron bursts. They just give what light they can and keep on doing it. There is a great deal to be said in favour of that sort of light

Brian Gill

LUNCH CIRCLE

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

Tuesday November 21st 2017 The Shippsons, 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.

EVENTS

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
Booking closing 9 November



NEW—repeated at members requests
Tour of Liverpool Medical Institution
Wednesday 28 February 2018
Morning & Afternoon tours
With Lunch for both tours @ 12.00 noon
Cost £11.50 inclusive



THEATRE Reminders

GISELLE
Liverpool Empire
Thursday 26 October @ 2.00pm
Meet at theatre



WARHORSE
Liverpool Empire
Wednesday 29 November
@ 2.30 pm
Meet at theatre



10th ANNIVERSARY LUNCH

Around ninety members of our Oxton and Prenton U3A enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch at the Prenton Golf club to celebrate our U3A 10th Anniversary. Thank you to Barbara Lloyd and the Committee for organising it and to Gwyneth, Jean, Corinne and Ken who decorated the room so aptly. It was great to hear our Chairman, Sandra Lakin and the previous Chairmen, Ann, Colin and Martin, all speak of the progress and experience through the past decade.

After a delicious buffet lunch we were entertained by Andy Smith who played several string instruments and sang. A truly memorable occasion.



MEETINGS and SPEAKERS 2017

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



Creative Writing Group



My Hero

I should think that most people have from time to time thought about what it would be like to meet someone famous either contemporary or from the past. My own choice would be an engineer or scientist. The likes of Stephenson, Brunel or Cox fall into this category but for me one person stands head and shoulders above them all – his name is Isaac Newton. The chance of meeting him was zero but on a whim, I decided to give him a call.

“Hello, is that Isaac, Isaac Newton?”

“Oh hi Isaac, please forgive me but I saw your picture in the paper so I thought I'd ring you. I hope you don't mind. I know several of your contemporaries quite well but have never had the pleasure ... You're such a distinguished polymath I'd like to ask you a few questions if I may.”

“No, it's not a survey and I'm not trying to sell you anything.”

“Thank you. Beneath the picture it said Isaac Newton FRS. What does that FRS mean?”

“Oh, Fellow of the Royal Society. Does that mean you're a bit of a gent hob-nobbing with the great and the good? Get invited to all the King's shenanigans?”

“Right, not that sort of society. But do you get to see the King?”

“Quite often eh? Are you on first name terms?”

“No, I suppose that was a bit stupid. I was curious as to whether he preferred to be Charles or Charlie when the chat got rather less formal.”

“Yes, I suppose that was a bit stupid too. Actually there was another reason why I rang. I wanted to ask you about this gravity business. I mean that apple falling on your head may have caused a lump or even a grave injury or, to put it another way, an injury of the utmost gravity but do you really need to go into all those mathematicals. All this directly proportional and inversely proportional stuff is beyond me. As for working out that the same force that controls the apple controls the moon ... it's just crazy. I mean if something's heavier than air it will fall and if it's lighter than air it will float. To me the moon must be lighter than air because it's floating. You can't argue with that but yes, I suppose you can. I just hope the apple didn't leave a scar. On another subject, how come you're spending so

much time trying to turn all sorts of things into gold? Folks have been trying to do that for hundreds of years without getting anywhere. Don't you think it's a waste of time?"

"Ah, you've got some new ideas huh. Well if you succeed I've got an old tin bath that could do with refurbishing. Bathing in a gold bath tub would be a bit up-market!"

"Ok, ok I'm sorry, I was being silly. But do you not think there's a conflict of interest between your alchemy and your position at the Royal Mint?"

"I wasn't casting aspersions. I know you're as honest as the day is long but you must admit that with your concocted gold and your access to real gold ... well."

"Let me change the subject. Did you hear that Chris got the St. Paul's job?"

"You did? Good. Well actually I'm down at the Red Lion now with a few of the boys having a pint or two to celebrate and we were wondering whether you could spare the time to join us for a jar. I would be especially pleased to meet you."

"Yes, we all know that you're busy but so is everyone else."

"I suppose that new telescope of yours could have some teething troubles. By the way, Ed's down here."

"Ed Halley for heaven's sake. You know, the bloke who's looking at that comet thing. He could probably use a decent telescope. Really Isaac it sounds like you need a break."

"You want to know who's here. You're wondering whether it'll be worth your while or whether the gathering is august enough to deserve your company."

"OK, I don't count for much but in addition to Ed and Chris there's Sam and Bob."

"No, not that Bob. Hooke's not on speaking terms after your argument about gravity and proportions. I mean Bob Boyle, him that's always going on about gases. You know, $P1V1=P2V2$ whatever that means. And there's Sam Pepys. He reckons he can spare the time even though he has big problems whipping the navy into some sort of shape. He's backwards and forwards to Chatham and Deptford day in and day out. By the way, did you know that at the time of the Great Fire, Sam buried his wine and cheese in his back garden to save it? As it happened it wasn't necessary, but still... and of course he's writing his diary. That must take some time. Have you ever seen any of his diary?"

"It's all dots and squiggles. I suppose he must know what it means but I doubt whether anyone else will ever work it out. I must say I wouldn't mind knowing myself. I bet he's written about a few juicy, er, shall we say acquaintances in there."

"Oh, so you're not interested in Sam's philandering. There's just one more thing, honest. If I were you I'd forget all about your other inventions and concentrate on the cat-flap. For instance, I don't think there's a big demand for telescopes right now but if you get that cat-flap perfected and the advertising and marketing are done right I reckon it could be a nice little earner. Keep you going to a ripe old age. You can forget all that optics and motion stuff."

"Well really Isaac, I never thought I'd hear you using that sort of language! I'll say good-bye and perhaps we'll see you soon."

Rod Paddock





WALKING GROUP



Our October walk round the Thurstaston area was led by Gwyneth Williams and Corinne Whitham. Nearly at the end here; we were ready for lunch.

. A great morning's walk and the rain held off – thank you Gwyneth and Corinne.

**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 Mersey travel 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 to 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

November 15th 2017 IN THE SESSION ROOM

ALEX KATZ LED BY Carol Burkitt



TEA AND COFFEE ROTA – NOVEMBER

9 NOVEMBER Valerie Edwards - Doreen Aliq - 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 Bew 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





MUSIC MAKERS



Monday 11th December 2017 10.30am – 4.00pm

Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool

Cost £8.00 (lunch not included)

Programme

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

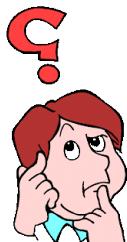
Further details and booking arrangements are available on the events page of the Regional Website or from Gill at:

gillruss71@gmail.comwww.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: D.Talamonti@2016.ljmu.ac.uk

A LETTER FROM HAZEL PALMER at U3A NORTHWEST

Hello Eliane, wondered if the following would be of interest for your Newsletter.



Last year and this a group of members from several different U3As on the Wirral, set off by mini bus for Newton Rigg, Penrith, an Agricultural College set in glorious countryside. The accommodation is in brick buildings looking out onto a green and housing four students, two up and two down, with all you need for a short stay including a communal kitchen where you can make a cup of tea and meet with friends.

The courses are many and varied but best of all is the welcoming and friendly atmosphere and being with like minded people who still want to learn new things; plus the food is delicious. There are lovely gardens to explore on site at break times and the chance to go to the Theatre on the Lake, with transport laid on; a treat not to be missed. The tutors give of their time free so don't miss out, take advantage of the U3A Summer Schools, rejuvenate the brain cells, feel young at heart and spirit. It is all arranged especially for YOU.

Hazel Palmer

It certainly sounds very appealing and I for one will be looking over next summer's prospectus with great interest! The photos below show some of the facilities.



CHRISTMAS CHARITY

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



We usually bring a shoe box full of loose gifts which can be sorted. Toiletries for ladies, teens and babies, chocolates, boxes of tea bags, jars of coffee, biscuits etc. are all welcome. Please label with Male, Female, Child, Teenager, Christmas Fare etc.

OCTOBER 26TH MEETING

This looks like being a fun meeting and will be reported in the next Newsletter – hopefully with some photo souvenirs. Many thanks to all those who are helping.

AND FINALLY.....

I would love to hear from Group Leaders regarding the various activities under way in our U3A. If you would like to share any items please e-mail them to me at the address below before the twentieth of November and I will try to include them in the next newsletter.

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

