



MARCH NEWSLETTER



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Since the inception of our U3A in 2007, we have been classed as a Charity under the 'umbrella' of the U3A National Office Charity Number; however a recent ruling by the Charities Commission has made this situation no longer possible. Changes to the ruling about what has to be counted as income means that membership fees, tea and coffee sales, interest groups room hire, and above all monies generated from all our social activities are included. In one fell stroke this immediately catapulted our income to well over the point at which we have to register as an individual charity.

Along with National Office, and many other U3A's who are now in a similar situation, we have to amend one item of our constitution and this will be done (with members' approval) at our AGM on 26th April this year.

Once this is done we, your Committee, will begin to navigate the ins and outs of registering as a Charity in our own right. We have one year to complete our registration.

So if you notice your Committee members wearing perplexed expressions and having more grey hairs than previously, you will know the reason why.

I am well aware and very appreciative of the wonderful support and assistance I receive from all the Committee and I hope that with the help and support of all our members that we will achieve charitable status for our U3A.

Sandra Lakin
Chairman



BRIAN'S MUSINGS



March is the month of the vernal equinox when spring officially begins. I have to confess that I am nowhere near ready for it; any more than I was ready for the year 2018 when it began. But these things happen anyway – ready or not. I tend to be living my life not-quite-catching-up and consequently feeling inadequate. Fortunately I have a ready teacher close at hand by the name of

Gustavus. That is unlikely to be his real name. No one knows what that might be because he is a feral cat who sleeps under our wisteria where I have made a den for him.

Gustavus refuses to get involved in any of the superfluous and extraneous activities that human beings invent for themselves and in which, from time to time, they try to involve cats. His sense of propriety forbids that I should approach near enough to attempt any form of physical contact. He prefers to make his own arrangements with regard to food. He will occasionally sit and wash whilst I engage him in casual conversation – nothing too meaningful or heavy. He comes and goes as he pleases and I am always glad to see him. Last thing at night he is usually there and I let him know that I have registered the fact.

I, on the other hand, tend to eat from a sense of obligation to others and spend a considerable amount of time coming and going at the behest of circumstance and collective will rather than to suit my own propensities. I have tried opting out. For years I lived in a remote farmhouse in Spain, without running water, electricity, post or telephone. Though my time was very much my own, the essentials of survival necessitated spending a considerable amount of it drawing water, hand over hand, from a well two hundred yards away and gathering enough wood with which to cook and keep warm. In winter temperatures often fell below zero and fire-wood in those parts was at a premium.

Gustavus manages to avoid all this. Never the less I wish he would come indoors and get warm occasionally. But then in order to do so he would have to negotiate the three cats and one dog that are already there; and this brings up the next issue: RELATIONSHIPS! I freely admit that the relatedness of everything is probably the key to understanding the meaning and purpose of the existence, not only of humankind but of everything there is; but the cost can be annihilating for the unwary.

Gustavus has few needs and therefore few obligations. He relates to the world in a way that is right for him. It is clear that the greater our list of requirements the more likely we are to become disgruntled and disappointed when they fail to be requited. A friend of ours had a miserable birthday last week when the people she was to spend it with let her down. Gustavus does not bother about birthdays. Every day for him is real and immediate in its own right. When I lived in Spain I never knew the date and seldom even the day but I always knew what the sun and moon were doing and how much daylight I had left when the sun reached a certain point in the sky.

I did get involved with the local people. For several years it was the passing shepherds and those who worked the land, with their slower pace and immediate wisdom with whom I shared silences and occasional words. The noise and close proximity of others that came with going into town could be painful and I would be shocked by the thoughtless and boisterous behaviour of visitors. Now I am comforted by the fact that, if needed, there is a place in the psyche to which I can retire whenever necessary and no one can follow. For as much as I value relationships, having this place of retreat somehow makes them, not only possible but also more rewarding.

BRIAN GILL

REQUEST FROM BARNADO'S

I am writing on behalf of Barnardo's to ask whether you are able to do anything to help us promote volunteering in the local Oxton community.

The Oxton store based at Downfield Lane Shopping Centre are currently looking to recruit volunteers to join our friendly team. Our aim is to provide all of our volunteers with a quality volunteering experience, where

volunteers gain from meeting new people, learning new skills and having fun. Many of our existing volunteers have shared that volunteering has increased their self confidence and given them a sense of achievement by helping the UKs most vulnerable children and young people.

We would be happy to speak with any of your members who would like to find out more, if they would like to drop into the shop for an informal chat or they can call the shop manager, Linda Dean on 0151 651 2100 to arrange a visit. Linda's e-mail address is linda.dean@barnardos.org.uk if you would like any further information or have any questions.

Julie Goodrum



DEESIDE AND WIRRAL U3A NETWORK

www.u3asites.org.uk/deeside-wirral

SCIENCE DAY

Monday 30th April 2018 10.30 a.m. – 4.00 p.m. at

Heswall Hall, 111 Telegraph Road, Heswall CH60 0AF

Refreshments from 10.00am

Following a successful Languages groups workshop in late 2016 a similar event has been arranged for Science.

It is intended for leaders of science groups and others who are group members interested in science and potentially interested in forming a group in their U3A.

Attendance costs £5 per person and members of U3As beyond the Deeside and Wirral network are welcome to attend.

Parking is available close to the venue, including a pay and display car park behind Heswall Hall at Mount Avenue CH60.

Applications, with cheque made payable to Deeside and Wirral network, can be sent to the Network Chair, Arthur Maltby at 5 Pinewood Drive, Wirral CH60 2SD

PROGRAMME Refreshments and registration from 10.00am

10.30 Welcome & Introduction – Arthur Maltby, Chair , Deeside and Wirral network

10.40 am Unconscious bias in gender and in science: (an interactive talk) Hannah Renshall, Institute of Physics

11.40 am Discussion sessions in groups. The first of two sessions will be introduced by Mike Hollingsworth, the U3A National Advisor for Science.

12.30 am Lunch - bring your own or use the local cafes 1.40 Introducing people to science. Hannah Renshall

2.30 pm Second discussion sessions. 3.00 Refreshments 3.20 Conclusions from group discussions

The event will end at about 3.45 pm

LUNCH CIRCLE

Dates to note for 2018 MEET AT 12.15 FOR 12.30

- Tuesday March 20th Carnarvon Castle Pub, Oxton.
- Tuesday April 17th Presto (Dibbinsdale)
- Tuesday May 15th The Shippons Pub, Irby.
- Tuesday June 19th The Refreshment Rooms



Colin Stredder

SOCIAL OUTINGS

EVENTS

**Tour of Liverpool Medical Institution
114 Mount Pleasant – Opposite Metropolitan Cathedral
Wednesday 28 February 2018**

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

Morning tour meet 10.40am for 11.00 am tour

Followed by lunch @ noon

Afternoon tour – meet for lunch @ 12.00 noon

Tour to follow lunch 1.15 pm to 2.15 pm



NEW BUT AVAILABLE 1 MARCH ONLY !!

VISIT TO LIVERPOOL MASONIC HALL

22 Hope St

TUESDAY 6 MARCH @ 12.30 pm

Cost £11 which includes a buffet lunch

Meet for lunch @12.30 pm followed by

Tour of the many beautiful & varied rooms @ 1.30 pm

lasts between 1 – 2 hours depending on questions

N.B Book at meeting on 1 March



WEDNESDAY 14 MARCH 2018 – BOOKING CLOSED

Guided visit to Liverpool Mosque

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

Meet at city centre bus stop ELLIOT STREET Stop GA

@ 10.20am

Tour 11.00 am to 12.00 noon

Essential information on dress code – see notice boards



PLUS

Afternoon guided tour of Liverpool Metropolitan Cathedral

FINAL ARRANGEMENTS

MEET @ CATHEDRAL 1.50 pm

Tour 2.00 pm to 3.00 pm followed by visit to Crypt. Apologies for photo of wrong Cathedral in the February Newsletter. Ed.



CHINA'S FIRST EMPEROR & THE TERRACOTTA WARRIORS

World Museum Liverpool

Visit is being organised & will go on sale as soon as finalised!!



THEATRE

REMINDERS

LIVERPOOL PLAYHOUSE

Tuesday 13 MARCH 7.00 pm

THE LITTLE MATCH GIRL

Booking closed – Collect Tickets &

Meet @ Theatre



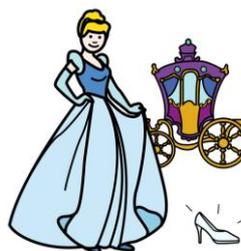
Matthew Bourne's CINDERELLA

Liverpool Empire 2.30 pm

Thursday 12 April 2018

Booking closed – Collect Tickets &

Meet @ Theatre



BOOKING CLOSING 1 MARCH 2018

LIVERPOOL PLAYHOUSE

Tuesday 27 MARCH 7.30 pm

HARD TIMES

(A Northern Broadsides production)

Tickets £12



NOW BOOKING

AN OFFICER & A GENTLEMAN – The Musical

World Premiere prior to London

LIVERPOOL EMPIRE

Wednesday 23 MAY 2018 @ 2.30 pm

Tickets £33.50 (Rear stalls – centre)



IMPORTANT NOTICE

No bookings or reservations can be taken without payment

This is necessary in order to be fair to all our members

PLEASE try to book events BEFORE the START of meetings

Payment at end of meetings MUST be either cheque or correct cash only

Full booking details available @ meetings - see your social organisers

NOTICES FOR MEMBERS



TEA AND COFFEE VOLUNTEERS:

I am looking for more volunteers to serve tea and coffee at our meetings. I would only call on you two or three times a year. It is not an onerous duty, in fact it is very pleasant and a good way of getting to know other members or to catch up with those you already know. It involves setting up, pouring drinks and washing the dishes. It is also a good way of feeling that you are “doing your bit” towards the smooth running of our U3A.
Ring me.....Joan Benton, telephone number 608 6226.



CRAFT GROUP

Do you want a social afternoon, with a cuppa and maybe a slice of cake, if so why not join our Craft Group? We have change the format so that members usually bring their own work instead of learning a new skill every month, but occasionally one of us will demonstrate a new technique.
We meet on the second Monday afternoon in the month at my house at 2 p.m.
Ring me.....Joan Benton, telephone number 608 6226

COLIN STREDDER would like to hear from any members who would like to give a short talk at one of our non visitor speaker meetings about a subject of interest e.g. an unusual holiday; an interesting work experience. Any volunteers please speak to Colin.

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA -2018

March 1st 2018 - Jean Dickie, Maureen Jones and Bernadette Hamilton
March 15th 2018 - Lilian Evans, Joan Parfect and Helen Roberts



PEOPLE OF OXTON

Portrait Photography Project by James Deegan



I am a local photographer currently producing a series of portraits of people who live, work, or regularly visit the Oxtan area of Birkenhead. The portraits would all be taken in different Oxtan locations, such as the home, place of work or favourite spot etc. These are called environmental portraits, where the photographs give the viewer an insight into the subject's life and surroundings.

The portraits are intended to show the rich variety of life in this particular part of the Wirral; a place that to me, as a local, has always had the feel of a small village within the broader Wirral area. I am approaching local businesses as well as people who simply have an interesting look or a great story to tell.

Typically, because of the natural approach I am taking, the photo shoots would take up to 10-30

minutes. The aim is to be as natural and unobtrusive as possible, although these are formal portraits with the subject fully aware of the presence of the camera and not documentary pictures of people at work.

I am aiming to shoot all the portraits over the next few months and I am flexible with times, day or evening. Anyone willing to take part would give their time for free, but would receive a copy of their best images for their own use, and maybe even some free publicity where appropriate!

The ultimate aim for 'People of Oxton' is to mount a public exhibition of the work in the local area. I hope also to produce a book or pamphlet with the images accompanied by text including information, quotes and stories from the people in the pictures. I am sure this would be of great interest, particularly in the local area itself.

I would love to hear from anyone interested in getting involved in this project so I can arrange a convenient slot for me to visit, explain further and take some images. Also if anyone can pass on my contact details to anyone else you think might like to take part, be it friends or fellow employees who fit the criteria, I would be most grateful. My contact details are – jamesdeegan10@gmail.com or 07930 985 442.

Please also visit my website www.deeganphotography.com and the James Deegan Photography page on Facebook to see examples of my work.

MEETINGS and SPEAKERS 2018



2018

Thursday 1 st March	Confessions of a Registrar – Carole Codd
Thursday 29 th March	Now There's a Funny Thing.. – Brian Lloyd
Thursday 26 th April	Grand Narratives and How We Live. – Mary Clinton
Thursday 24 th May	Joyce Grenfell. – Jean Finney
Thursday 21 st June	Thomas Edgerton and the Earls of Derby – Bernard Dennis
Thursday 19 th July	Behind the Scenes in Theatre and TV. – Fiona Martine
Thursday 13 th September	The Cultural Significance of the Belly Dance – Fatma
Thursday 11 th October	Ephemera – Glynn Parry
Thursday 8 th November	The Christmas Tree: where Culture, Science and Magic Meet.
Thursday 6 th December	Faith, Fun and Fellowship – Michael Burgess

WALKING GROUP

On February 16th Colin and Carol Burkitt led a walk around the West Kirby and Caldy Hill area. It was to be the last



walk that they will lead for us before their move away from the area and we were blessed with a really beautiful day; clear skies and sunshine (if not heat) all the way. We were rewarded with some stunning views over the Dee estuary. The turnout was good; twenty seven people or thereabouts and we all enjoyed a hearty lunch afterwards at the Dee Hotel, (Wetherspoons). Colin formally handed over to Gerry who is taking over as team leader for the Walking Group and the Group thanked Colin and Carol for the many happy days we had shared with them. They will be greatly missed. Ed.

Colin



&Carol Burkitt



Taken from the top of
Caldy Hill



U3A Walk on Friday 16th March 2018. Led by Gerry Riley

A walk of 6.6 miles starting at Maghull Station and finishing at Town Green Station. We will stop at the Stanley Arms hotel in Aughton Village for Lunch at around 1:30pm. This is about 5.8 Miles into the walk. The walk takes us along the Leeds/Liverpool canal for a good part of the route then on fields and minor roads and is flat all the way. There may be some mud in places after rain so recommend a walking pole and gaiters if you have them. We will make a diversion from the canal for a stop of around 20 minutes for coffee and toilets at the Scotch Piper Inn in Lydiate around 12:00 pm. Following lunch there is ¾ of mile walk to Town Green Station to catch the train back to Liverpool Central.

Meet on the barrier side of Liverpool Central station by the toilets no later than 10:15 am to catch the 10:25 am Ormskirk Train to Maghull. There is a toilet at this station.

My phone number on the day is 07751 807007 and email is gerry@riley1.me.uk.

Future walks are planned for Friday April 20th to be led by Tony

And Friday May 18th to be led by Sandra

ART APPRECIATION GROUP



**Dates for U3A history of art meetings.
All meetings in Trinity Session room start at 10.15a.m. unless otherwise stated:**

2018

Wednesday March 21st in Session room THE GHENT ALTARPIECE Terence Whaley

Wednesday April 18th in Session room To be advised

**Wednesday May 16th MEET AT TATE GALLERY 10.45a.m. KEN'S SHOW: exploring the unseen.
Celebrating the 30th Anniversary Special Exhibition of the gallery's Collection.**

VISIT TO THE TATE

Members of the Art Appreciation Group spent an enjoyable morning on February 21st at the Tate gallery viewing an excellent exhibition of some of the works of John Piper. Bernadette had arranged for us to have a guided tour which was invaluable in helping us to understand and appreciate his work.

Many of us were not aware of the scope of his talents and of the variety of styles he had employed. He was not only a painter but also a printmaker, draughtsman, designer and writer of distinction. He has designed sets for theatre and opera and notably designed the stained glass windows in our Metropolitan Cathedral.

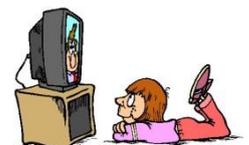
Piper's earlier work included the abstract on many of which he employed collage to lend texture. Other painters who inspired much of this work included Picasso, Jean Arp and Henry Moore. Later as he started to move away from the abstract style and into surrealism in the late thirties he was inspired by Hepworth, Mondrian and Ben Nicholson and much of his work was based around seascapes and ancient buildings both of which interested him greatly.

During the forties his work became more realistic as he depicted the damage done to buildings with the bombing and in the fifties he was painting more coastal scenes.

It was a most impressive collection and displayed a wide range of his talent. We all had our own favourites and I think everyone found something to enjoy. There was also an exhibition of Egyptian surrealist paintings which Piper had been interested in and which were well worth seeing and worth another visit. Many thanks to Bernadette for organizing a really enjoyable visit.

Eliane Davie

We received the following e-mail from Sally Ainsworth who would like anyone interested in the project to contact her.



I work for a television company called Shiver Productions and we are developing a new television programme for a major broadcaster.

We are looking for fun and outgoing grandparents who may be interested in our project and we were hoping you might be able to spread the word amongst your members to see if any of them might be interested in hearing more. The U3A has already sent this out for us but it seems it hasn't reached everyone so we are doing one final push to try and get the message out to the Nation!

We are looking for grandparents who have 3 or more adult (18+) grandchildren who they would like to spend more time with.

Many grandparents reportedly only see their grandchildren on average twice a year, it's not surprising the two generations often know little about each other's lives. In the programme, grandparents will spend one-on-one time with their multiple grandchildren in an attempt to get to know them better and see if they can offer any help.

Along the way they will learn about the pressures their grandchildren face, the lifestyle choices they make, their hopes for the future and what, if anything, is standing in their way of achieving them.

Filming for the programme will not take place until next year, this is the initial casting stage and we are only hoping to speak to people over the phone.

I was hoping you could share the attached flyer amongst your members to see if anyone might be interested in getting in touch with us. We're hoping to hear from people ASAP.

I can be contacted here or on 0207 157 4588.

Many thanks in advance.

Kind regards,

Sally

Sally Ainsworth | Casting Producer | Shiver | ITV Studios
16th Floor, ITV Upper Ground | London | SE1 9LT | Tel: +44 (0) 207 157 4588

A new TV programme is looking for Grandparents who want to spend more quality time with their Grandchildren

Are you a Grandparent?

Do you have three or more Grandchildren aged over 18?

**Do you wish you saw them more often?
Would you like to help them out?**

If so, a new Documentary would like to hear from you!

If you are interested please email us on shivercasting@shiver.tv
OR CALL US ON: 0207 157 4588

Please get in touch as soon as possible!



johnbews@btinternet.

LETTER FROM HEAD OFFICE WHICH COULD BE OF INTEREST

The latest newsletter has gone out direct to the 'opt in' list of U3A members. It is packed full of news from U3As, news from the Trust, including upcoming events and new subject advisers and much more.

You can view it [here](#) if you have not already signed up yourself.
Your members can view all back copies and sign up to receive it direct on our website
<https://u3a.org.uk/about/newsletter> and also by clicking on the link below.

U3A EMAIL NEWSLETTER

[Click here to add your name to the U3A email newsletter list, or visit \[u3a.org.uk/email\]\(https://u3a.org.uk/email\)](#)

Best wishes,
From the National Office team.

A very happy St. David's Day and St. Patrick's Day
to all our Welsh and Irish members!



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 March and I will try to include them in the next newsletter.

Please note that the AGM for 2018 will be held on April 26th.

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

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