



# October Newsletter

Please remember to take your membership card with you on all events and outings with U3A.

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

As the days shorten and the nights grow longer, I am reminded of the difficulties faced by those vulnerable people in our Community who, unlike most of us, do not have homes to shelter in or who are struggling to clothe and feed their families and keep them safe and warm during the winter months.

Therefore I am delighted to say that your Committee has decided that this Christmas our U3A will support the Charles Thompson Mission. This is a charity that does wonderful work in supporting the most vulnerable people in society. I know just how generous you all are and I have no doubt you will all wish to give towards this cause.

Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December, which is the last meeting prior to Christmas, will be the day to bring in your donations; we have to deliver to the mission before 12-00 noon so please give your items in as you arrive at the meeting. The mission provides almost everything for those in need so we are asking for non perishable food stuffs, warm clothing and toiletries for both men and women.

Thank you all in advance for whatever you can manage to give, it will be greatly appreciated.

**Sandra Lakin**  
Chairman

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## BRIAN'S MUSINGS



We sometimes say of children, often quite tiny children, that they are 'very knowing.' This can also be said of certain animals and birds but seldom, if ever, of those who have been subjected to what for us passes as education. Then we are not so much 'knowing' as knowledgeable and with a bit of dedication and application to the process of living, we might eventually even become wise, though there is no guarantee; but the quality of 'knowingness' that we apply to the very young and to animals must essentially be accompanied by innocence. It is something innate and not the product of cultural conditioning. So what is it, and once lost, together with our innocence, is it gone forever?

Whatever it is, it seems to defy logic and reason and is free from the contamination of personal emotion. It is simply there, expressed in a presence, a gesture or a look, catching us by surprise and holding us for a moment in its thrall. I do not think that it ever goes away. It is always there but we forget that we ever had it, burying it under something more recognisably utilitarian when in fact this sense of inner knowing can be one of the most useful faculties that we possess. By all accounts it gave us relativity and many other discoveries that defy conventional understanding.

It is suggested that we live in a holographic universe. I am perfectly happy with this as a working hypothesis. In a hologram every part contains the key signature of the whole, (the Ancient Greeks understood this). If we are to accept the creation as holographic (many reputable scientists do) we must accept the inclusion of consciousness. By this measure we must allow for the possibility of our being in some way connected to and potentially aware of the whole picture. This has enormous implications, especially in the field of healing; but also, in any state of confusion and uncertainty there is something in us that 'knows' what needs to be done. If only it were so simple! There is the little matter of lost innocence to be reclaimed.

Einstein, who gave us relativity, was devoted to a life of questioning. He did not presume to know. Innocence is invariably accompanied by awe and wonder as we discover a world that lies beyond any subsequent conditioning. Once we become still, open and aware, the imprint of the hologram may begin to come alive: beyond logic, reason and the need for gratification. In that open and receptive state we might suddenly realise solutions that in our daily awareness level would lie well beyond our reach. It is a good way to find lost items too. At the end of the month we come to the four days of Celtic 'No Time' by which portal we enter the dark half of the year. The long, dark nights give us an opportunity to connect with the holographic imprint of our inner knowing. The 'clouds of glory' of which Wordsworth was so aware, need not be something that we leave behind us as we 'mature' but rather a sense of knowing and perception that is there to be drawn down into our daily lives when we take the trouble to create a little space and time.

**Brian Gill**

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## LUNCH GROUP

Dates to note for 2018 MEET AT 12.45 for 1pm **Note new time**

Tuesday October 16<sup>th</sup> The Queen's Arms, Oxton.

Tuesday November 20<sup>th</sup> Carnarvon Castle, Oxton.



**COLIN STREDDER**

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**REMINDER**

**NOTICE FROM Palm Grove Church Community**

**WIRRAL ARTS FESTIVAL & TWPG**

*As part of the Wirral Arts Festival, Trinity with Palm Grove Church are presenting a programme of words and music on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October and it is being organised by Janette Webster.*

*The title is '1914-18 A programme of music, words and art'. This is a broad remit including World War 1, the art, music and drama of that era, how religion was affected and the politics of the day, including the Suffragette movement.*

*Please contact [paulfranklin.tpg@gmail.com](mailto:paulfranklin.tpg@gmail.com) if you are interested in taking part,*

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**Wirral Arts Festival  
Science Day Lecture Series**



**Thursday 4th October 2018 9.30 am – 5.00 pm**

**Heswall Hall, Telegraph Road, Heswall, CH60 0AF**

**Admission Charge for each lecture £1.00**

**Heswall U3A members free on production of membership card**

**For further details contact Dr Keith Foggin 0151 625 4201 or [keith.foggin@live.co.uk](mailto:keith.foggin@live.co.uk)**

**For further details of the Programme please refer to September's Newsletter.**

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**\*\*\*VERY IMPORTANT\*\*\***

**MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL \*\*\*VERY IMPORTANT\*\*\***

I am sure you are all aware that your memberships will be due for renewal on 31<sup>st</sup> October and for this year only we have to ask you all to complete and sign a membership application form. By law we have to have permission from you to store your data and also to use your data to keep in contact with you. This form complete with your signature will be valid for as long as you remain a member of Oxton & Prenton District U3A. This is to ensure that we comply with the GDPR 2018 and in accordance with our Data Protection Policy which can be found on our website [www.oxtonu3a.co.uk](http://www.oxtonu3a.co.uk)

During early October we will send out a membership form either to your email address or by post to those of you who do not have an email address. We ask those of you receiving by email to print

out the membership form (or if you do not have a printer to ask Gwyneth at the front desk for a copy) complete and sign the form and bring it with you when you come to renew your membership. Those receiving by post, please complete the form and bring it with you when you come to renew your membership.

Would you all also please note that there is a question regarding disability on the form. Please complete that question and especially let us know if your hearing or vision is impaired.

**WITHOUT THE COMPLETED FORM WE WILL NOT BE ABLE TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP**

Membership remains the same at £12-00 for the year or £8-50 if you are already a member of another U3A. For those of you who have only just joined our U3A you will not have to pay to renew membership until 2019 but we do require you to fill in a new membership form. Please bring along the correct cash (we are not able to give change) or a cheque made out to Oxton & Prenton District U3A. We will commence renewal at the meeting on 25<sup>th</sup> October.

**PLEASE REMEMBER NO COMPLETED FORM**

**MEANS NO MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL**

Sandra Lakin Chairman

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## SOCIAL OUTINGS

### EVENTS

#### Wirral Transport Museum & Heritage Tramway visit

10 OCTOBER

Final arrangements

Meet at Woodside for 10.30am journey by TRAM to museum

Talk & free time until approx 12.00 noon when we travel back to Woodside

Cost 5.00

*Unable to find lunch venue large enough to accommodate us in the vicinity so sorry but no lunch as a group.*



#### CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2018

This year's venue is Prenton Golf Club

Golf Links Road , PRENTON CH42 8LW

Thursday 20 December

12.00 noon for 12.30 pm

3 course meal £25.00



### THEATRE

The Habit of Art by Alan Bennett

Liverpool Playhouse

Wednesday 24 October at 7.30 pm

*Tickets available for collection*

Booking closed



#### STILL ALICE

*Based on the award winning novel & starring*

*Sharon Small*

Liverpool Playhouse £16

Wednesday 7 November 5.30 pm

Tickets only available until 27 September

**A feast for all Ballet lovers – Two completely different versions of the same ballet!!**

**Derek Deane's SWAN LAKE**

**The 2018 production by The English National Ballet**

**Liverpool Empire**

**Thursday 22 NOVEMBER 18 @ 2.00pm**

**Tickets £22.00**

***Booking closing 27 September***



**PLUS**

**Matthew Bourne's re-imagined version of his iconic Swan Lake**

*This ballet is almost certain to sell out very quickly so*

**Tickets have been reserved for Thursday 11 April 2019 @ 2.30 pm**

**Liverpool Empire and are on sale now.**

**COST £34.00 – can be reserved by deposit of £14.00 with balance payable later in year**

**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**

**COACH COSTS** are dependent on numbers travelling so it may be necessary to adjust prices slightly from time to time

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**MEETINGS and SPEAKERS 2018**

**Thursday 11<sup>th</sup> October**

**Ephemera – Glynn Parry**

**Thursday 8<sup>th</sup> November**

**The Christmas Tree: where Culture, Science and Ma  
Magic Meet.**

**Thursday 6<sup>th</sup> December**

**Faith, Fun and Fellowship – Michael Burgess**



**SPEAKERS 2019**

**Thursday 3<sup>rd</sup> January**

**A Policeman's Lot - Bill Johnstone.**The speaker shares with us his insightful and telling thoughts on a lifetime of policing.

**Thursday 31<sup>st</sup> January**

**The Origins of Place Names - Anthony Poulton-Smith.**You are welcome to bring interesting and mysterious place-names of your own for the speaker to consider. There can be a great deal more to a name than we might think.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> February**

**Grand Narratives and Political Language - Mary Clinton.**We welcome back Mary Clinton whose insightful examination of the way in which we speak might help us to understand what our politicians are really saying when they address us at this crucial time.

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> March**

**British Humour: 18<sup>th</sup>- 20<sup>th</sup> Centuries - Michael Murphy.**

It is so easy to take humour for granted when really it can afford us amazing insights into the way we function. This talk offers an interesting development from our previous speaker.

**Thursday 25<sup>th</sup> April**

**The Canal Dukes - Bernard Dennis.**Our canals are currently taking on a new lease of life. Their early development supported the industrial revolution and changed our history; thanks to those who had the money, influence and insight to develop them. We can rely on Bernard Dennis to be his usual insightful and informative self.

**Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> May**

**Witches and Superstitions: their effect on modern culture - Jean Finney.**We might like to think that in an age of scientific rationalism we are free from the effects of demonology. Not so! Jean Finney has entertained us on two previous occasions and is returning in response to popular demand.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June**

**Confessions of a Probation Officer - Ray O'Brien.**We know that whatever Ray O'Brien shares with us will be a subject of great mirth. His talks are always a rare treat.

**Thursday 18<sup>th</sup> July**

**Major Predators of Liverpool Bay - Matthew Clough.**Matthew Clough will be sharing with us aspects of the work that he knows and values. He may well reveal aspects of which we might not be aware when we survey or even enter, the waters of Liverpool Bay.

**Thursday 12<sup>th</sup> September**

**Through the Eye of a Magician - Peter Turner.**Peter Turner comes to us supported by a wealth of professional experience. He might possibly challenge the way in which we see things.

**Thursday 10<sup>th</sup> October**

**Viking and Saxon History on Merseyside - Diana Goodier.** Diana Goodier, a devoted historian, will make her talk particularly relevant to The Wirral and promises to dress for the occasion.

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> November**

**English Village Life in the Middle Ages - Stuart Elliot.** Stuart Elliot has the ability to bring to life ways of living and being that seem to be lost in time. He comes to us highly recommended and offers an interesting continuation and development from the previous speaker.

**Thursday 5<sup>th</sup> December**

**Hollywood Drama Queens - Rina Tullinger.** And now for something completely different! Having chatted with the speaker on the phone I am sure that all who hear her will enjoy her originality and dynamism as she addresses this fascinating subject.

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***NOTES OF ACTIVITIES AT NON- SPEAKER MEETINGS***

- 27th September: (1) Jackie Ritson and her experiences during her time with the pupil referral service.  
(2) Colin's time as an office boy.

25th October: Eliane Davie – Life as an airline stewardess in the 60's.  
22nd November: Lyn Ebbrell - Magic of reflexology. How it can help you.

Colin Stredder

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## Around the World in 108 Nights Part 2



After three days at sea we reached the Azores, a volcanic group of islands (Portuguese) in the middle of the Atlantic. The weather was quite windy and not unlike a British Spring day. We had a guided tour up to the Fire Lake on Pica da Barossa where the views were quite magnificent.

Crater Lake Sao Miguel.

Our next stop, after five days, was Bermuda . We arrived early as we had not been able to land at Horta due to weather conditions. I went on a walking tour round St. George with its colonial style of architecture and later went into Hamilton. The prices here were noticeably high! The weather had become wet and we required tugs to leave St. George. We now had three days on board before landing in Cuba.



Harbour Mouth, St. George, Bermuda

Arrived at Cuba, where passport controls seemed quite strict, I set off on a four hour walk to see the sights and a stop to sample the excellent local rum and coke! There are some beautiful old buildings, some in need of renovation and the old fifties' cars are used for tourists, taxis etc.



Cuban vintage cars

Azores Liberation Square, Havana



A short voyage then brought us to Cozumel in Mexico where I was able to visit the San Gervasio site. This gives a good impression of the Mayan style of building and included a visit to a tequila distillery and a chocolate factory. Chocolate was important to Mayans who believed it had magical properties. We were still getting some rain but it was getting much warmer.

Mayan remains, near Cozumel, Mexico



Two days later we reached the Panama Canal which was completed just before WW1 and recently enlarged. It allows ships to pass from the Atlantic to the Pacific Oceans without the terrifying passage around Cape Horn. As it was daylight we could see things clearly and watched a huge ship towering above the ocean as it was lifted into lakes that form much of the canal's length. We had a commentary from the pilot who pointed out many interesting facts about its construction and workings.



**Entrance to the Panama Canal** As we approached the end we could see Panama City in the distance and the queues of ships waiting to enter the waterway. It was getting very hot as we approached the equator and our next stop would be Ecuador whose name means “Equator”.



Our next call was Manta, a busy, but below the surface quite poor port whose main trade seemed to be in tuna fish then we headed for our main destination of Calleo, the port of Lima, capital of Peru. During this part of the voyage we had the ceremony of “Crossing the Line”. Members of the crew dressed up as Neptune and his assistants and those who had not crossed the line previously had to kiss a wet fish and jump in the pool. All

good fun especially now that the weather was much hotter!

### Crossing the Line



From Peru it was possible to visit Machu Pichu or the Galapagos islands but as the extra cost would have been considerable I stuck to the walking tour of Lima, later visiting the Nicolin Motor Museum and the beach resort of Miraflores, where there is a statue of Paddington Bear (who comes from “Darkest Peru”). The ship moved overnight to General san Martin where we visited the beach resort with its museum full of strange skulls with very high foreheads. The traffic in Lima appeared chaotic and children played football in the main street!

### Lima (Peru) architecture



Another highlight was Easter Island, most known for its strange giant statues. We were able to get a feel of the way of life for one of the most isolated communities on the planet. There was quite a swell as we landed here and we had to make a rather startling jump from the gangway to **Easter Island Statue** the tender waiting until they were level.



### Pitcairn Island

Although unable to land there, we cruised past Pitcairn Island and anchored whilst the locals sold us keepsakes and told us about their ancestors. It was fascinating to hear stories from the descendants of the “Bounty Mutineers”. Next we reached Tahiti where, sadly, it never stopped raining. The capital, Papeete, was like Paris and not at all as I had imagined a south sea paradise to be. Sadly our next two calls had to be missed due to an impending hurricane. Hurricane Gita had been around and following us for the past two weeks and was to cause considerable damage in Samoa and Fiji. Bora Bora and Raratonga, our next two ports of call, had to be abandoned and we had a long passage across the Pacific before we reached Auckland in New Zealand.

### Auckland City



We crossed the dateline and “lost” February 18<sup>th</sup> 2018 as we crossed it – excuse for a party! I also celebrated a significant birthday during this leg of the journey, with the waiters bringing me birthday cake and singing “Happy Birthday” – another memorable moment. Arriving at last at Auckland a day early I took in the museum trip following on next day with visits across the bay to Devon port, a metro ride to the cricket ground, a trip up the tower and a symphony at the Town Hall,

returning to the ship just half an hour before sailing. This city was one of the highlights of the whole cruise for me.

Then it was on to our other New Zealand port, Bay of Islands which is a resort town way up north. Here the pace of life was slower and we take could take cruises across the harbour and sit and eat ice cream before sailing on to Oz where we would be making four port calls. You will hear about those in the last instalment.

Steve Cottam

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### WALKING GROUP

U3A Walk September 21<sup>st</sup> 2018

A circular walk of just under 6.5 miles was led by Gerry Riley, starting at Chester Railway Station and finishing back in Chester City Centre at around 1:30 pm. We enjoyed an excellent “eat as much as you like” buffet lunch at “ Panda Mami,” which is a good value Chinese and Asian buffet restaurant. Thank you Gerry for another excellent walk.



### U3A Walk on Friday 19th October 2018.

A modest walk led by Gwyneth Williams and Corinne Whitham, that leads to a delightful circuit of wildlife habitats created by sand dunes and includes the ‘squirrel walk’ in the Nature Reserve. It also includes a walk along the beach! Distance of about 4 – 5 miles on roads, woodland paths, tracks, sand dunes and beach. Would recommend a walking pole for sand dunes! Lunch at The Freshfield Pub.

Meet at Freshfield Station at 11am. (Train from Moorfield at 10.26 gets to Freshfield at 10.54)

Gwyneth William’s phone 07811068512  
Corinne Whitham’s phone 07801802487

### CHRISTMAS WALK

I am planning a pre-Christmas walk probably on 14th December 2018. This is a week before normal to take account of the main Christmas lunch on 20th.

Mike and Joan Benton have offered to host the after walk lunch at 91 Prenton Hall Farm Road. There will be a walk around the Storeton area first. Would those interested in this walk please sign up at the U3A Meeting.



Gerry Riley

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### **Freak Mid-Summer**

In the freak Mid-Summer  
Dusty wind had blown,  
Earth stood hard as iron,  
Water hardly known,  
Heat to tame the lion,  
Ground as dry as bone;  
Sun had scorched the grass to straw,  
Straw on straw,  
In the freak Mid-Summer  
Like 'seventy-six' before.

By Paul Cullen (With apologies to C. G. Rossetti)

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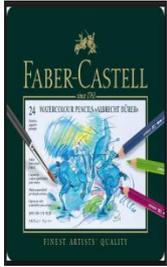
## ART COURSE AT THE GLASTONE THEATRE

I received a request to include the following in our October newsletter. Ed.

I have attached a list of art courses I am holding at the Gladstone theatre in Port Sunlight over the coming months. They are all one day courses running from 10.00am-3.00pm and cost £35 each. If it is possible to pass the information on to your members it would be much appreciated.

Kind regards  
Jane Beech

### **Art Courses at The Gladstone Theatre Greendale Road, Port Sunlight, Wirral CH62**



**4XB**  
Taught by Jane  
Beech B.A. (Hons.)



**Cert. Ed**



**Courses run from 10.00am – 3.00pm**

Discovering Pen & Ink

Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> September 2018

Watercolours for Beginners

Monday 1<sup>st</sup> October 2018

How to Paint a Landscape in Watercolour  
(This course will run from 9.30am-2.30pm)

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> October 2018

Autumn Leaves in Watercolour

Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November 2018

Improving Tonal Contrast in Watercolours

Monday 21<sup>st</sup> January 2019

How to paint Water using Watercolours

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> February 2019

Painting Spring Flowers in Watercolour

Monday 25<sup>th</sup> March 2019

How to paint simple figures in Watercolour

Monday 29<sup>th</sup> April 2019

Painting Trees in Watercolour

Monday 24<sup>th</sup> June 2019

Painting a Summer Landscape & Cottage

Monday 22<sup>nd</sup> July 2019

**Each course costs £35.00**  
This includes Tea/Coffee/Biscuits

**For Enquiries & Bookings**

**Telephone: 0151 339 3435 or 079481 59493**

**E-Mail: [beechnut45@googlemail.com](mailto:beechnut45@googlemail.com)**

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## **ART APPRECIATION GROUP**

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



**Here is our programme for October 2018 – April 2019:**

- October 17<sup>th</sup> – “ Mirror, Mirror...” Talk by Bernadette Hamilton (Sessions Room)
- November 21<sup>st</sup> – Williamson Art Gallery
- December 20<sup>th</sup> – No Meeting
- January 16<sup>th</sup> – Fernand Leger Exhibition (Tate Liverpool)
- February 20<sup>th</sup> – “Every picture tells a story” Talk by Steve Cottam (Walker Art Gallery)
- March 20<sup>th</sup> - Leonardo da Vinci – Talk by Bernadette Hamilton (Sessions Room)
- April 17<sup>th</sup> – Leonardo Drawings Exhibition (Walker Art Gallery)

**Please make a note in your diaries.**

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## **CREATIVE WRITING**

Monica Price who leads the Creative Writing Group would welcome another three or four members. This is a really enjoyable group for those interested in developing their writing skills and meets on the Tuesday afternoon of the fourth week of each month at 2.30

**Monica Price**

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## **CRAFT GROUP**

Hi, I would like all you crafty ladies to know that we have now changed the format of the Craft Group. Until now we have tried to demonstrate a different technique every month, but as we are a small group sometimes we run out of ideas, so we have changed our plan so that now all members bring their own work. It doesn't mean that I (or anyone else so inclined) won't have some bright idea and wish to share it, but at least the pressure is off. I hope that more of you feel inclined to bring along your knitting, sewing, embroidery, patchwork or even some funny stories to entertain us. It is very interesting seeing what other people produce and get ideas from that. Thanks.....Joan Benton

I hope that this will encourage a few more people to join us. Is it sexist that I have excluded the menfolk? I don't really think that they are interested.

Love...Joan....xx

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**Gwyneth Williams** enjoying a holiday in Canada





**You may be interested to know from head office:**

*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)*

**AND FINALLY,** *There is quite a bit of content this month which I hope you will find informative and useful. Do keep the news coming in!*

[elianedavie@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:elianedavie@hotmail.co.uk)

**Eliane Davie** Editor

**HAPPY  
THANKSGIVING DAY**

