



JUNE NEWSLETTER

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

You may have noticed that our politicians, regardless of ideological persuasions, are having difficulties in finding enough common ground from which to direct the business of running the country. There seems to be a lack of adequate structure upon which the democratic and legal systems, on which we depend, can rely.

It is not for lack of example that our politicians flounder. They have only to look at our Oxton and Prenton U3A and they would immediately find a reliable model to emulate in carrying out the business of government. Our U3A members come together from a number of social, cultural and political ecologies and yet, month after month, year after year we keep running our interest groups, our social mornings, our social outings, and our speaker mornings; and all this in an ambience in which we are discouraged from expressing specific, political and religious points of view. (Though they do creep in sometimes).

I find this interesting given that at the moment the world is being torn apart by political and religious extremes for which people are prepared to kill both themselves and others in the mistaken belief that governance is only possible via dogmatic and autocratic decree in the pursuit of a political or religious ideology. Our example proves them wrong at every step. We do indeed have structure, nothing in nature can function without, but those of us who enjoy gardening know that the frames, arches and obelisks that we employ are there to enable any given plant to achieve its optimum form. What would clematis be without something to climb up? What purpose would be served by subjecting a plant to a structure that was contrary to its nature?

The U3A ethos seems to have arrived at a way of functioning that enables those participating to explore and experience a range of options without encroaching on the sensibilities of fellow members; a veritable 'unity in diversity.' This is not to say that we do not have both individual and collective problems in both our membership and administration but somehow we cope, mainly because we value the institution as a whole and want everyone to feel comfortable within it. Communication is vital to this process. It is essential we each feel that there is someone to whom we can express our concerns as and when they arise.

So here we are, with a minimum of fuss and bother, setting an example that the world might do well to follow. Now that is something to be pleased about is it not?

Brian Gill

Chairman

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA

If you cannot do a duty, please ring me, JOAN BENTON, ON 608 6226

June 6th

Barbara Baker

Kathy Sullivan

Ann Jou

June 20th

Judith Wylie

Dorothy Mathews

Eliane Davie

July 4th

Grieg Roberts

John Roberts

Ann Hillier

July 18th

Doreen Alig

Valerie Edwards

Margaret Yeardsley



I would like to call on more members to volunteer to help serve tea and coffee at our meetings. It is a really good way of getting to know other members and is not onerous. I would probably call on you to do this duty only twice a year and the more volunteers we get the less there is to do.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Joan Benton: tel. 608 6226

LUNCH GROUP

Dates to note for 2019 MEET AT 12.45 for 1pm

June 18th

The Travellers' Rest

July 16th
pm

Peel Hey – afternoon tea Please note time: 2.30



COLIN STREDDER



Our lunch Group meal was at 'Pesto's', Rabymere on May 21st. As always it proved most enjoyable - our thanks to Colin for organizing these occasions.

SOCIAL OUTINGS

EVENTS

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.

SUMMER OUTING 2019 – Schedule reminder

ERDDIG

Tuesday 4 June

Schedule

Depart Trinity with Palm Grove 9.30am to arrive 10.30 am

House open 12.30am – 15.30pm

Plenty of time to enjoy gardens and have lunch

Return home 16.30pm to arrive 17.30pm approx



Plea from your current Social organiser

Will somebody please offer to write a very small article on this (my last event) for our Newsletter.

THEATRE

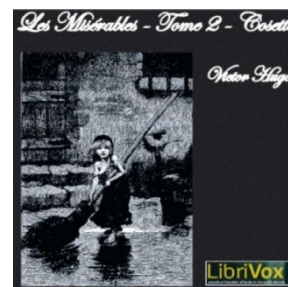
LES MISERABLES

EMPIRE Theatre

Tuesday 15 OCTOBER @ 7.30pm £39 Circle seats

(Best medium priced seats for an expensive show)

Booking until 6 June



AUTUMN and WINTER THEATRE visits will be advertised for sale from 29 AUGUST when meetings recommence after our Summer Break

VISIT TO THE EVERYMAN THEATRE TO SEE “SWEENEY TODD”

A group enjoyed a wonderful performance of ‘Sweeney Todd’ the musical version of the demon barber, on May 24th. What a talented and energetic cast they were too! Many thanks to Barbara Lloyd for organizing yet another memorable evening’s entertainment.



Ed.

MEETINGS and SPEAKERS 2019

Thursday 20th 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 18th 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 12th 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 10th 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 7th 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 5th 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.

NOTES OF ACTIVITIES AT NON- SPEAKER MEETINGS

Thursday June 6th

Wallasey U3A’s Guitars. The Replay (via Brian)

Thursday July 4th

Colin is doing a dance anagram – on dance.

Colin Stredder

CREATIVE WRITING



NOTE: Monica Price, who leads the Creative Writing Group, has space for about four more members. The group meets on the 4th Tuesday of the month at 2pm – 4pm. Enquiries to Monica on 200 2728

WALKING GROUP



Here are some photos from our walk on Friday may 24th.
was led by Tony Swarbrick.

The walk

We started and finished at St. Helen's Junction Station and had a lovely walk mainly over fields and old mine workings, now recreated as recreation areas. The old Sutton Colliery has what's called 'The Dream Sculpture' which is the one shown in the group photo. We stopped halfway for lunch at the Golden Retreat Restaurant in the Bold Heath Garden Centre.

Gerry Riley

'LOCAL GUITAR HEROES' PERFORM IN GUITAR FESTIVAL

LOCAL GUITAR HEROES
A MIX OF BLUES, JAZZ & FOLK

KEITH SIBLEY - K. SIBLEY - MIKE WHITE - PAUL DUNSALL - ROGER PARKER

International Guitar Festival of Great Britain 2019

THURSDAY 13th JUNE 7.30pm
Floral Pavilion Theatre Blue Lounge
Tickets - £9.50 - Available from Floral Pavilion Box Office
0151 666 0000

Robin Thomas is a U3A member and thought that a number of you might be interested in this local event. Ed.

PRESS RELEASE

For all lovers of that magic instrument—the Guitar, The International Guitar Festival of Great Britain, organised by Wirral Borough Council, is well established as a key event in the music calendar. It takes place between May 20th and June 29, 2019, at the attractive Floral Pavilion in New Brighton and at other venues. It features some big names from the guitar world, including the Manfreds, Milos and Jethro Tull's Martin Barre Band.

However, we hope that a certain concert will be of particular interest to Wirral audiences, especially people from the jazz, blues and folk fraternities, but also for all lovers of guitar. The festival organisers always like to promote local musicians, and 'Local Guitar Heroes' will be performing in the Blue Lounge at the Floral Pavilion, on **Thursday 13 June, 2019, commencing at 7.30 pm.**

The title of the concert is a bit tongue-in-cheek as none of the players could claim that title in all modesty and there is a film title in there somewhere but it makes the point that Wirral *does* have its fair share of good guitarists. First items on the programme will be led by experienced jazz guitarist, Keith Singleton, who plays every Thursday in the Panorama Lounge at the Floral. The group will be performing jazz standards from the Great American Song Book, and the guitar aspect will demonstrate clever chord work and rippling solos.

This will be followed by the Mike White Group, playing a mix of swing, Latin American and blues, with a jazzy flavour. Mike will deliver additional sounds and styles from his 'axe'. (Actually a Fender Telecaster guitar, modified to meet Mike's stylistic needs). He will be backed by Robin Thomas (Keyboards), Tim Price (LIPA bass guitar wizard) and drum ace Tom McGuire. Mike has for number of years been guitarist and Musical Director for a series of shows at Fort Perch Rock, New Brighton, featuring legendary Elvis Presley guitarist, James Burton. So, you will be one step away from greatness—Mike has played with James Burton, and Burton has played with Presley.

So that's the first half, a jazz-themed section. After the interval, we move into a more acoustic environment. Wirral-based Phil Chisnall, a veteran of the festival, and an accomplished acoustic player, singer and teacher, will present a selection of originals and covers. To complete the concert, we have a trio led by experienced acoustic guitarist and folk/blues singer, Roger Parker, organiser of the Wallasey Folk Club for many years, together with versatile folk/Irish and contemporary guitarist/singer, Martin Pope with Robin Thomas on bass. Expect 'St .James Infirmary' and 'Darcy Farrow' and other soulful songs.

We are hoping to create a really warm atmosphere and we invite lovers of guitar, especially jazz, folk and blues to help fill the place. We hope also that people will support the festival as a whole. There is something special about the guitar and about live music. The performers will be happy to chat about their music and their instruments to any enthusiasts and aspiring guitarists, in the interval and after the show. After all, we need to encourage the next generation of finger pickers and plectrum people, for future festivals, maybe Woodstock, Newport (US) or Glastonbury!

Robin Thomas

robin_thom05@hotmail.com

Mobile 07581085589 Landline 0151 513 0839

Additional Information

1. Guitarist Keith Singleton has been presenting a charity guitar afternoon at the Floral on Thursdays (12.30 to 3.00) for a number of years and has raised thousands of pounds for Cancer Research UK. Around five years ago, his wife Bernie was diagnosed with cancer,

and together, they threw themselves into fund raising for the charity. Bernie became known as 'Bernie Bucket' because she was never far from a collecting bucket. Bernie died just over two years ago, but Keith, supported by some of the musicians in this concert, has continued these regular sessions in the Panoramic Lounge at New Brighton's Floral Pavilion. One of these sessions in the lead-up to the concert could provide a media photo opportunity

2. A point of interest to media could be the age profile of the participants in the concert, in that 5 out of 9 participants are aged over 70. This is a good story and shows that people can continue to play music well into retirement. However, given that young people are often very keen on guitar music, we hope to attract young people to the concert, where they will have a chance to chat to some of the 'oldies' about guitars and amplifiers.
3. I am the organiser of this concert within the overall festival. I wanted to offer a varied concert of jazz, folk and blues because I play in groups which perform this music. I have very broad tastes in music and I am hopeful that here is an audience out there which can enjoy the full range of music on offer. I am very happy to be interviewed anywhere and at any time, in the lead up to the concert.

Robin Thomas

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 to November 2019



Wednesday June 19th 2019: Visit Lady Lever Art Gallery. – meet in foyer 10.30 am.

“Rembrandt in Print”

Wednesday July 17th 2019: Meet at 11 am, address to follow:

Hazel at Home

NO MEETING IN AUGUST 2019

Wednesday September 18th 2019: visit to the Tate Gallery, Liverpool. Meet in foyer at 10.45 am.

Constellations, Interactive Exhibition

Wednesday October 16th 2019: In Session Room start at 10.15 am.

Vasili Kaninsky, (1866-1944). Bernadette leads.

Wednesday November 20th 2019: In session Room start at 10.15am.

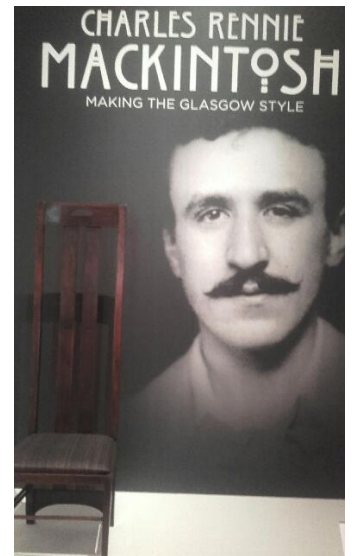
Caravaggio (1571-1610) Bernadette leads

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Please make a note in your diaries

Bernadette Hamilton

VISIT TO VIEW THE CHARLES RENNIE MACKINTOSH EXHIBITION AT THE WILLIAMS GALLERY ON MAY 15TH 2019



Gwyneth Williams

Photographs by

For our May 2019 meeting, members of the Art Appreciation group attended the Walker Art Gallery, Liverpool to view 'Charles Rennie Mackintosh-Making the Glasgow Style' (until August 26th).

Inspired by rapid industrial growth and corresponding cultural developments, Glasgow laid claim to have become the second city of the British Empire by c.1900. It gave birth to the only true Art Nouveau movement in Britain, associated with the Aesthetic Movement and later the Arts and Crafts Movement.

Charles Rennie Mackintosh (1868-1928) was born in to this vibrant atmosphere and soon developed into a promising architect and designer. He was interested in both exterior construction and interior design. His finest examples of the former are considered to be Scotland Street school and the second phase of the Glasgow School of Art. Whilst in the latter sphere, his masterpiece is considered to be Hill House, Helensburgh, home of Blackies, the publishing family.

He was also fond of designing tea-rooms containing the famous delicate high-backed chairs. Miss Cranston's Willow Tea-Rooms were restored and re-opened in 2018.

Mackintosh and his friend James McNair attended technical school and Glasgow Art School where they met the MacDonald sisters, Frances and Margaret. They became known as the 'The Four' and a double romance developed. James married Frances and Charles married Margaret.

Mackintosh became a partner in Honeyman, Keppie and Mackintosh. In 1901/2 they submitted comprehensive drawings in the competition to design Liverpool's Anglican Cathedral but were unsuccessful. The similarity to Giles Gilbert Scott's winning entry is immediately recognisable.

In July 1914, the Mackintoshes left Glasgow for Walberswick in Suffolk. As an 'incomer' Charles was arrested in 1915 on suspicion of being a German spy as the police found letters from German and Austrian friends. As a result, he was banned from the counties of Norfolk, Suffolk and Cambridgeshire! They moved to Chelsea and soon became members of fashionable London Society while continuing to work hard on designing furniture etc.

Charles died of cancer in 1928. Margaret survived him until 1933. (Frances McNair died in 1921 and James in 1955).

The recent history of the Glasgow School of Art has not been a happy one. Following a serious fire in 2014, a four-year reconstruction programme was still incomplete when, in 2018, another major blaze caused further damage and loss. The building is again undergoing reconstruction with, it is hoped, better quality materials and a sounder knowledge of fire precautions and procedures.

Our thanks to Bernadette Hamilton for arranging this interesting visit.

Paul Cullen

FASHION SHOW

On May 3rd a number of members from our U3A enjoyed a fashion show in Moreton by M&Co, (shop in West Kirby), in aid of charity. Corinne Whitham was one of the organisers and tells me that they were very happy with the turnout. All the models were volunteers and are to be congratulated on providing an entertaining show and shop window for M&Co while helping local charity.



Committee Lunch at Sheldrake's Restaurant



Photos by Gwyneth Williams

Group Leaders!

Local History Group, Film Group and Craft Group

Meetings of these groups are currently suspended.

If you are a member of one of these groups could you take over as group leader?

Is there anyone else who would like to volunteer to lead either of these groups?

Please contact Tony Swarbrick or Eve Felton

groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk

U3A CONFERENCE AND AGM 2019



CONFERENCE AND AGM 2019 OPEN FOR BOOKING

Please inform your committee and your members that they can visit our dedicated website for Conference news, updates and booking - find it at <https://conference.u3a.org.uk/>
There, you can find information about the programme, the speakers, and the location. We will be continuously updating it as we confirm more details, so be sure to keep checking back.

In the meantime, booking is now open, so click the button to visit the website and book your place.

[Visit the Website](https://conference.u3a.org.uk/)

AND FINALLY -----

Doesn't the time fly by? Here we are already with the June Newsletter and the start of the summer months. As always our U3A seems to be busy with groups, theatre outings and the Erddig Summer Trip to look forward to, which prompts me to remind you all that as Barbara Lloyd will not be organizing outings other than theatre ones after this one, we are still looking for someone (or two people) to take over the other outings. Theatres AND other Outings is too much for one person to cope with, so PLEASE if there is anyone who would like to try to organize perhaps just one or two events to see how it fits, don't hesitate to come forward.

As always, if anyone has any news which they feel might interest our readers, do let me know.

Eliane Davie – Editor



