



November Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MUSINGS



November is a strange month. Once Bonfire Night is over (and that can take some time) November is a month that hardly seems to exist in its own right at all but rather as an indeterminate run-up to Christmas. Conversations in November tend to look forward to events in December and though the summer is decidedly over, winter has not properly begun. Those amongst us who tend to be a little more organised find this a good time to start wondering what to buy as Christmas presents for people who already have everything. I find it to be a good time in which to start planning strategies for getting out of the things that I hear those around me planning.

Of course this year, whichever way things go, the climatic and social uncertainties that the month traditionally brings will no doubt be exacerbated by events in the Palace of Westminster, where, some might argue that the pantomime season has come somewhat early, if indeed it ever left us. We have been cheering and booing for some time now as on stage have appeared an abundance of King Rats, wicked uncles, cruel stepmothers, 'ugly' sisters (and brothers!) devils and fairies; against scenery that makes it impossible to know which pantomime one is watching and precisely who the goodies and baddies really are.

I feel fortunate in that having a special affection for pantomime, the one currently running in London is, for me, full of fascination and interest. Italy during the renaissance gave birth to the Comedia del Arte: a group of stock characters: lawyers, doctors, idiots, warriors, lovers etc, who between them could improvise just about any situation that human relationships might devise. This tradition is still honoured in pantomime and is reflected in human behaviour in general, nowhere more dramatically than in our current political life.

Seen objectively, pantomime parades before us powerful archetypes that hold humanity in thrall until such time as we can begin to awaken to the possibility of a more conscious participation. We become stuck in roles that we find difficult to cast off or might not even know that we are playing as our own, personal pantomime, unfolds - hour by hour, day by day, and year by year. We like to have 'baddies' to boo and 'goodies' to cheer and to tell others where to look to locate the problem - because it is so obvious - all you have to do is turn round and look behind you. But turning round within our own being is not so easily done. Years of responding in a particular way to events and

situations in life are not for turning, especially if we are too busy looking to our audience for a reaction or in the audience captivated by the stories unfolding on the stage, sitting passively, watching it all as though the script and production are there solely for our entertainment; little realising that we are all the pantomime, improvising as best we can, trying hard to act out roles that life has bestowed on us, often against our better judgement.

The best actors know their craft well and understand that they are not the parts they play and that they also have a choice as to what, when, where and how they play them. They would not be seen in anything but the very best of pantomimes and they understand that when the curtain comes down they are left with the question of who and what they truly are.

BRIAN GILL
CHAIRMAN

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA 10th October 2019 TO 21ST NOVEMBER 2019

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

7th November 2019

Sylvia Hunt

Ann Jou

Brenda George

21st November 2019

Marion Jackson

Barbara Riley

Judith Wheat



What an optimist I am! I am still hopeful of finding more volunteers. Please ring me (Joan Benton) on 608 6226 if you would like to offer your services.

*** MEMBERSHIP SUBS DUE FROM OCTOBER 24Th**

TO GWYNETH WILLIAMS



2020 DIARIES CAN BE ORDERED – COST £3.25 - FROM MARESE ROBERTS

LUNCH GROUP

Dates up to Christmas: Meet at 12.45 for 1pm

November 19th 2019 The Shippons

In December the Christmas Dinner takes the place of the lunch group.



2020

- January 21st 2020 The Shippons, Irby
- February 18th 2020 The Carnarvon Castle, Oxton
- March 17th 2020 The Travellers Rest, Bebington
- April 21st 2020 The Toby Carvery, Landican
- May 19th 2020 Pesto, Bromborough
- June 16th 2020 The Boathouse, Parkgate
- July 21st 2020 Sheldrakes, Heswall



COLIN STREDDER

Tues 15th October – lunch at the Queens Arms

Photo by Corinne Whitham

NOTES OF ACTIVITIES AT NON- SPEAKER MEETINGS

- 24th October 2019 Quiz by Colin.
- 21st November 2019 Brian’s play – “Whatever Happened to Baby Dalling”

More information later.

Colin Stredder

SPEAKERS 2019

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.

SPEAKERS 2020

- Thursday 2nd January – Roger Browne.** New Orleans to New York; a musical journey.
- Thursday 30th January – Max Hall** Last Great race on earth.
- Thursday 27th February – Anthony Annakin- Smith.** The Neston Collieries. Wirral’s industrial revolution.
- Thursday 26th March – Sheila Walsh** Hullabaloo and Penguin Poo –
- Thursday 23rd April – Ruth Moor –Williams** Wirral and Wales humour and song (true story)
- Thursday 21st May – Gavin Chappell** Smuggling in the Wirral
- Thursday 18th June – Keith Warrender** Dunham Massey Ship Canal
- Thursday 16th July – John Michael Corfe** China Farm Story
- AUGUST BREAK**
- Thursday 3rd September – Glynn D. Parry** Under, over and up the River Mersey
- Thursday 8th October – Brian Anderson** Images from the edge –
- Thursday 5th November – Michael Murphy** The terrible tale of Gin
- Thursday 3rd December – Barry Humphreys** Christmas songs – a look back

Colin Stredder

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY

- 2ND JANUARY 2020 -** First meeting after Christmas break.
- 23rd APRIL 2020 -** AGM
- 30th July 2020 -** Last meeting before Summer Break
- 3rd September 2020** First meeting after Summer Break

ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP FEES DUE OCTOBER 24th 2019

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

A walk on September 20th starting from The Seven Stars' pub at Thornton Hough was led by Gwyneth Williams and Colette Whitham. The weather couldn't have been better and the walk of about five miles proved most enjoyable. Thanks to Gwyneth and Collette for organizing a great day. Ed.



U3A Walk on Friday 25th October 2019.

A walk led by Gerry Riley of just over 5 miles starting at Bache Station and finishing at the Bunbury Arms pub in Stoak village, where we will take lunch at around 1:30 – 1:45 pm.

The walk is mainly along the towpath of the Shropshire Union Canal towards Ellesmere Port, with a small amount on roads and well-made field paths at the back of the Countess of Chester Hospital.

There are two options for meeting as follows:

1. At the Bunbury arms pub in Stoak for no later than 10:15 am to catch the 10:29 bus to Bache. This requires a car and is the preferred option It will require a few drivers to give lifts to those travelling by train back to a convenient station or other location after lunch.
2. Just outside the main entrance to Morrison's store by Bache station. Get a Chester train to arrive at Bache no later than 10:35 am. You can then join the others travelling by bus. We can make use of the toilet facilities in Morrisons before we start, as there is no toilet on the walk.

Directions to Stoak:

Take the M53 motorway towards Chester and exit at junction 10 (Cheshire Oaks). Turn right towards Cheshire Oaks but keep in the Left lane through the traffic lights and turn first left into Little Stanney Lane. Continue under M53 motorway for about ¾ mile and take second left into Church lane and park in the Bunbury Arms car park. If you cross the canal you have gone too far.

Gerry's phone number on the day is 07751807007 and his email is gerry@riley1.me.uk.

U3A Christmas Walk Friday 13th December 2019.

A History Walk around Oxton Village led by Oxton Society Guides starting in Oxton Village Centre near the Post Office at 10:50 am for 11:00am start. Full Details are not yet available, but it is likely (depending on numbers) that there will be two different walks to choose from to keep the numbers to around 10 – 12 people per party.

Afterwards we will take lunch in The Queens Arms at around 1 pm.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Dates for U3A Art Appreciation Group meetings.
All meetings in Trinity Session room start at 10.15a.m. unless otherwise stated:
Here is our programme to November 2019



Thursday November 14th 2019: Matisse Exhibition: Drawing With Scissors at the Lady Lever Gallery. Please note that the date has changed for this visit.

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Please make a note in your diaries

Bernadette Hamilton

A few of the Art Appreciation Group met informally at the Williamson Gallery on Oct. 3rd, where we enjoyed a coffee, had a look round and found this Photographic Exhibition really interesting. It covered many of the social conditions from the 1950s



On October 16th Bernadette gave the group an extremely interesting talk on some of the work of Matisse in preparation of our visit on November 14th to a Matisse Exhibition at the Lady Lever Art Gallery. It was a timely introduction to his ideas on colour in relation to sound and form. Many thanks as always to Bernadette for sharing her knowledge with us and the work she puts in to making these visits so rewarding.
Ed.



MUSIC GROUP

On Wednesday November 6th Paul Cullen will be leading the session alongside Bernadette, matching music to the works of Leonardo Da Vinci. It should be a memorable one and all are welcome.
Ed.





WHCS FASHION SHOW

Corinne Whitham would like to thank the high number of U3A members who supported the WHCS Fashion Show in Moreton on Friday October 18th. The sum of £1,000 was raised for charity and our very own Linda Kinnear won 1st Prize in the raffle!

Photo by Corinne Whitham



THEATRE OUTINGS and EVENTS

SOCIAL OUTING

NOW BOOKING!!!!

See menu below

**2019 CHRISTMAS LUNCH
PRENTON GOLF CLUB
Golf Links Road, PRENTON, CH42 8LW
THURSDAY 19 DECEMBER
12.00 noon for 12.30pm
3 Courses £26.50**



CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

Starters

Broccoli & Stilton Soup

Plaice Goujons + chilli sauce

Farmhouse Pate

Mains

Roast Turkey

Roast Lamb

Seabass + watercress sauce

Veg Brie Crumble

Desserts

Christmas pud

Meringue nests + fruit

Profiteroles + chocolate sauce

Cheese & Biscuits

and

Coffee

THEATRE

Booking closed

THE NUTCRACKER

This year's English National Ballet production

Liverpool Empire

Thursday 28 November @ 2.30pm

Collect tickets and meet at Theatre

Booking until January

THE KING & I

Liverpool Empire

Part of world tour

Thursday 19 March 2020 @ 2.30pm

Tickets £35

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

VISIT TO THE PLAYHOUSE TO SEE 'AMELIE' THE MUSICAL OCTOBER 14TH

A group of us agreed that the production of 'Amelia' proved to be a really unusual and enjoyable entertainment. The versatility and energy of the actors who, apart from acting and singing, played a variety of instruments throughout, was amazing. The set was interesting, resembling a railway station and representing the various localities Amelie encountered in her search for the mystery man who was also looking for her. A window above on a higher level opened onto her bedroom and from time to time a red lampshade dropped down which contained a strap which she grasped prior to being lifted up to her room. Difficult to describe but fun as was the tale!

Many thanks to Barbara Lloyd for organizing another great evening's entertainment.

Eliane Davie

CHARITY WALK IN BIRKENHEAD PARK FOR MOTOR NEURONE

Saturday October 12th

Tony Swarbrick would like to thank all those who contributed to his Charity Walk in aid of Motor Neurone disease, either by walking or donating to the fund, which raised approximately £450 altogether.

Photo by Corinne Whitham



TALK ON VIKING AND SAXON HISTORY ON MERSEYSIDE

By Diana Goodier



Photos by Corinne Whitham



Group Leaders! **Craft Group**

Elaine Mercer has volunteered to re-launch the Craft Group.

She has a wide range of craft skills herself and wants people to contact her to suggest what craft activities they would like to pursue.

The re-launched Craft group will be open to Men as well as Women!

Are there any guys out there with crafting skills such as Wood Turning, Model Making, Painting or Drawing etc?

Would you be prepared to share or demonstrate your skills?

If you were a member of the craft group coordinated by Joan Benton, please get in touch with Elaine to let her know you are still interested. craft@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Local History Group

The Local History Group meets on the third Monday of the month at 2.00 pm in the Sessions Room at Trinity. This month, October, it will be on the 21st. We will be looking at the Workhouses of Wirral. All are welcome.

email address to contact Pauline is history@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Rummikub – New Group

Joan Parfect will be starting a group to play Rummikub in September.

Rummikub is a cross between scrabble and the card game Rummy, it is easy and fun to play, but beware it can become addictive!!!

More details of the game are on the Group Notice Board.

If you want to join this new group, contact Joan Parfect using:

email address rummikub@oxtonu3a.co.uk Craft Group

IDEAS FOR OUTINGS!

Does any member(s) have an idea for an outing that they think people would enjoy? Would they be prepared to organise it, (perhaps with a friend), as a 'one off' to see how they get on? This would involve collecting names and money, organizing a coach if required, booking any reservations and paying any bills. Cash and receipts to be handed to our treasurer, Ken, who will do any paperwork involved. Barbara Lloyd is prepared to help with advice and anyone interested should speak to her.

Ed.

AND FINALLY ----- *I would really like to feature all (or most) of our Groups in the next newsletter as I think that it would be helpful to new members to get some idea of how they operate. It would be great if all group leaders could send me a few words about their activities – it need only comprise a few lines to include days and times plus an example of a typical session. It would be lovely to hear from those who don't usually contribute to the newsletter. Anyone who has a funny story to tell of their group experience could chip in too!*

*Eliane Davie
Editor*



