

# October Newsletter

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I find it difficult to believe that we are in the month of October already – and not a great deal to show for it in my case. One moment there is the whole summer ahead, full of inviting possibilities (even in lockdown) and before we know it we are in the 'season of mists and mellow fruitfulness' and worrying about Christmas.

From the U3A point of view I cannot say that I have a great deal to report that you will not have heard from me already. That is not to say that nothing is going on in our U3A, simply that if there is, I don't know about it.

Your committee is working on the grand adventure of staging the AGM on-line. This is totally new and unavoidable territory so 'here be dragons'. All manner of traps and pitfalls no doubt await us but if such there are, we know nothing of them and though I dare not claim that 'ignorance is bliss' it can have a few advantages.

Head Office and Her Majesty's Charities Commissioners are no doubt waiting in the wings to clap us in irons the minute we 'exit stage left'. But at the moment that is all in a future that no one can predict. We can only take one day at a time and who knows where that will lead us? Though I crave security and comfort, adventure and uncertainty are also inevitable and indeed, necessary components in life and one might even argue that they are the driving force that ensures that humanity is constantly having to reach beyond itself in an attempt to solve some of the most basic survival issues that have been with us from the beginning of time. (and who knows what time is?)

So if you are sitting at home wondering how to pass the idle moment, how about coming up with definitive answers to the meaning and purpose of life? What exactly

is life? What is consciousness and how would you formulate a viable, ethical framework of governance through which the whole of humanity might live a rewarding, creative and meaningful life?

That should be enough to start with and any answers you can come up with would certainly keep philosophers, politicians and scientists occupied for a decade or so. I have left theologians out of this debate as they already 'know'.

I currently spend some time pondering the nature of relatedness (across the whole of creation) and the driving force of the 'dark unknown' but I also enjoy sitting in the garden with 'empty mind', in so far as this is possible. Surprisingly one very often finds that whatever one might be inclined to worry about very often lies in an imagined future and that in the actual moment, one spends quite a lot of time warm and dry and well fed. There are of course exceptions but these should not prevent us from enjoying the unencumbered present in which the simple act of BEING can be a huge adventure and a source of real contentment.

We will no doubt be in touch a time or two over the coming weeks but by the time of the next newsletter I hope to be able to tell of a happy and successful AGM.

We will also be contacting you about the interesting issue of membership renewal.

All good wishes from your 'Chair'.

Brian

**Brian Gill – Chairman**

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## MESSAGE FROM TONY SWARBRICK



### **Fundraising for Motor Neurone Disease Association**

Many of you will be aware that I have been for some time a supporter and fundraiser for the Motor Neurone Disease Association.

Normally by this time I would have arranged a concert which many from the U3A have supported. For each of the past 6 years this has raised in excess of £1,300. Sadly this year the concert had to be cancelled due to the Corona virus.

The MNDA along with all other charities has suffered a massive drop in income which will have a detrimental effect on the grants and support we are able to give to people living with this devastating condition.

The MNDA nationally has launched a campaign "Mission £5000" to, in some way, plug the gap in funding. At any time there are approximately 5000 people in the UK living with MND, hence the title? Each Support Group in the UK is recruiting volunteers to walk, run, ride, etc a few miles aiming at a group total of 5000 miles over the 5 weeks to end of October.

Could you help by recruiting friends to sponsor you on a short walking or cycling project? If so, please go to <https://www.justgiving.com/team/Wirral-Group>. Click “Join the Team” and you will be taken through a simple process to setup your own Just Giving fundraising Page.

Wirral Group has already raised over half of its initial target of £5,000 with project such as:-

- A trip up Snowdon on the “Snowdon Trammer” by a lady who herself has MND, with support from her family.
- A “Virtual Great North Run” last weekend

My own project is to walk the Circular Path around Wirral (approx. 35 miles). Due to recent health “blip”, I will be doing this in small weekly chunks of about 7 miles!! If you are not able to help by setting up your own project, please consider sponsoring me.

You can donate at <https://www.justgiving.com/fundraising/TonySwarbrick>

Thank you all who have already supported MNDA – see Coach Cancellations!!

If you would like more information about Motor Neurone Disease or would like to help in any other way, please contact me ([tonyswarbrick0107@gmail.com](mailto:tonyswarbrick0107@gmail.com)).

Thank you all,

Tony Swarbrick

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## Oxton and Prenton U3A – AGM 2020

**You are** invited to the AGM Zoom meeting on Thursday 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 10.30am.

For further details of AGM, see elsewhere in this Newsletter and emails which have been, or will soon be circulated to all members.

To join the meeting simply click the link below any time after 10.25am.

<https://us02web.zoom.us/j/6046373320?pwd=WE1ZbXlJWEhmdnk4ZllyYkFENktyQT09>

Or use the following ID and Password.

Meeting ID: 604 637 3320

Passcode: AGM



**The Basics:-**

- The simplest way to join is to click the link above (https:.....), you don't have to download zoom before you do this.

- A dialog box will open with a button labelled “Open Zoom Meetings” – click this button.
- If you have previously used Zoom on your device you should be taken immediately to the meeting.  
You may be given options to “turn on Audio” or “turn on video” initially you should turn on both – but see below!!  
You may get a message saying you are in waiting area; there may be a short delay before you are admitted to the meeting – just wait!
- If you have not previously used Zoom on your device you may have to click a link saying “download and run zoom”  
There will be a small delay, possibly 2mins or so while zoom loads on your device, then continue as in above paragraph.

I will arrange a test session for anyone who wishes on Thursday 15<sup>th</sup> October at 12noon. Please contact me beforehand if you would like to join this session.  
[groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk).

Zoom can be used on an iPad or other tablet device, but it works best on a Laptop or PC.

At the start of the meeting all microphones, except that of the chair will be muted, you will be able to hear what is being said, but other people cannot hear you. To temporarily unmute yourself when you want to contribute to the discussion, press and hold the space bar on your PC, when you have spoken release the space bar to mute yourself again. This does not work on some devices in which case you will have to find out before the meeting how to unmute yourself!

If you have any queries about using Zoom, please contact me (groupcoord.....). But don't leave it to the last minute!!!

Tony Swarbrick

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## BRIDGE GROUPS

Tony Swarbrick would like anyone interested in joining on-line Zoom groups for Bridge during this time to e-mail him at: [groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk) this works quite well and started up during lockdown; Tony will explain and advise on how to go about it.



Member Joan Parfect tells me that she is enjoying the Friday morning Zoom Bridge Group.

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## THE LIGHT, New Brighton

I have greatly enjoyed two shows during September at The Light cinema. Both were live recordings of West End shows: ‘42<sup>nd</sup> Street’ and ‘The King and I’. There were eight in the audience of the first and six of us at the second – a sad attendance for two slick, sparkling shows which were really uplifting



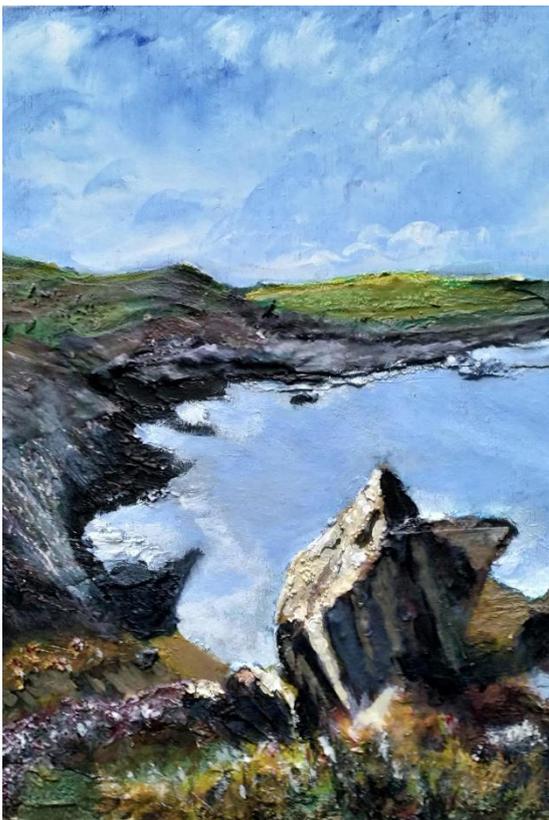
and entertaining in these somewhat glum times! There is great attention to Covid safeguards there, plenty of space between seat allocations and I would certainly recommend keeping an eye on their programmes for some of these wonderful value shows.

Eliane Davie

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## U3A MEMBER PAULINE HORNER'S SOLO EXHIBITION

Pauline Horner is having a Solo Exhibition of her artwork at the ArtHouse in Eastbank St, Southport from 29th September to 10th October. She says she has painted almost every day since Lockdown began and will have over 40 paintings for sale in the exhibition. She also said "As far back as I can remember, I have been fascinated by the sea and I have sketched and painted. I lived in Southport for 40 years but currently I live on the Wirral. Here I am surrounded on three sides by water and beaches and I am within easy reach of the mountains and scenery of North Wales and the Lake District. My preferred mediums are Pastels in the Summertime and Acrylics and Mixed Media in the Winter. I belong to several Art groups in the North West, including Irby, Heswall and Wallasey, and have been privileged to meet some exceptionally talented people. Over the years, I have lived, sketched and painted in many places in Europe, South Africa, North and South America. For this exhibition I have chosen the theme of Beautiful Britain. There are paintings in Pastels, Acrylics and Mixed Media and subjects include the Lake District, Northumberland, North Wales, the Hebrides and the Orkneys.



Rainbow in Lockdown

Examples of Pauline's work.

## Amlwch Bay

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## ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Bernadette has recommended checking out the National Gallery on line: [nationalgallery.org.uk](http://nationalgallery.org.uk) where there is a choice of virtual programmes and some interesting talks about a selection of paintings and painters to be found.



Speaking to her yesterday about how we might continue to visit some galleries, Bernadette said that she is willing to lead two or three separate groups of six, (maximum allowed under Covid rules) to visit some exhibitions in Liverpool and will shortly contact members of her Group with this in mind.

We do realise sadly that those shielding will be unable to take part in outings but really recommend the above internet link

Ed.

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## Corrine Whitham sends news of the Williamson Art Gallery

Here is some information about The Williamson Art Gallery which a lot of our members would normally use.

Many of our members are regular visitors to The Williamson Art Gallery and will, no doubt, be saddened by its continued closure. There is, at the moment, no date for its reopening but the staff are working hard to bring the gallery to you via their

Facebook page and their website - [www.williamsonartgallery.org](http://www.williamsonartgallery.org)

They are hosting online exhibitions which can be viewed via links on the website and producing short information films about items in the collection which can also be viewed via a link on the website.

Their Facebook page also has the links as well as a daily post featuring an item from the collection.

Corinne Whitham



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## LOCKDOWN WALKS

## Photos by Corrine



One of our members, Val Edwards, feeding the birds in Birkenhead Park on her daily walk. Val is there rain or shine – but admits that the sunny days are best!



Even the rain hasn't stopped members Corrine Whitham, Val Edward and Judith Wheat from taking their daily walk in the Park! They have walked every day during lockdown and plan to continue. If you want to join us (socially distanced of course) you are more than welcome, although you'll have to be up early as they meet at 8.15am for their 'a little over an hour' walk.

Corinne Whitham



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## IMPORTANT NOTICE

### AGM 22<sup>nd</sup> OCTOBER 2020

Under normal circumstances our AGM would have been held last April, but as we all know these are far from normal circumstances.

You should have all received by now details of our re-arranged AGM which is taking place on line via Zoom on 22<sup>nd</sup> October at 10-30.

It is your Committee's hope that our U3A will weather the storm and at some point in the future we will be able to resume our normal activities. In order to do this we do need to hold this AGM and the following resolutions will need to be decided.

- 1. Acceptance of Minutes 2019**
- 2. Appointment of Secretary**  
**Sandra Lakin (temporary)**
- 3. Appointment of 4 Committee Members**  
**Eliane Davie, Gwyneth Williams, Eve Felton and Barbara LLOYD**
- 4. Annual Membership fee of £5-00 per person (temporary)**
- 5. Acceptance of Treasurers Report**
- 6. Appointment of Auditor**
- 7. Acceptance of date of next AGM**

There will be no actual vote at the virtual AGM but every paid up member is entitled to vote on the resolutions listed above. Therefore we urge you ALL to send Brian a simple email stating that you are FOR or AGAINST or ABSTAIN the above 7 resolutions. His email address is [chairman@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

**Please just reply via email to Brian stating yes we are voting for the 7 resolutions or state which resolutions you are voting for, voting against or abstaining from voting.**

**WE REALLY NEED YOU ALL TO VOTE PLEASE BY FRIDAY 16<sup>TH</sup> OCTOBER**

No names will be recorded just the votes will be counted and then numbers will be reported at the AGM. Therefore your vote will be confidential.

Sandra Laken

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Regional Web site: [www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west/events](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west/events)

For regional news and events.



Registered Charity number 1159091

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## *And FINALLY.....*

Most of the news this month concerns our Zoom AGM, a first for our group! Please read all the information carefully and send your votes in as directed.

Members should contact Brian with their votes by October 16<sup>th</sup> at [chairman@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:chairman@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

Members wishing to take part in the Zoom AGM meeting on October 22<sup>nd</sup> at 10.30am should please contact Tony at: [groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk) before October 16<sup>th</sup>.

I confirm that the temporary membership fee, while we are unable to operate as normal, will be £5 only, to keep our U3A open.

Please keep your news coming in; we do like to hear from our members and I have need of something to insert in the next newsletter! I hope that you are all keeping well and finding ways of enjoying life.



Eliane Davie - Editor

