



# November Newsletter

## CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

How welcome it was to have the return of Speakers at our U3A meetings and the 14<sup>th</sup> October was no exception. I for one thought Brian Anderson on the introduction to his travels in "Images From the Edge", gave a very good and interesting account of his subject. What is next? Coffee and Tea will be back on the menu as from the 28<sup>th</sup> October, creating hopefully a more relaxed atmosphere. This may well have happened before you read this message.

Normality appears to be happening slowly, but surely and I believe that if we are sensible it will continue to do so, fingers crossed.

**Why "TOCK-TICK" Does Not Sound Right in Your Ears.**

Ever wondered why we say Tick-Tock not Tock-Tick, or Ding-Dong, not Dong-Ding; King Kong, not Kong King? Turns out it is one of the unwritten rules of English that native speakers know without knowing. The rule, explains a BBC article, is: "If there are three words then the order has to go I, A, O. If there are two words then the first is I and the second is either A or O. Mish-Mash, Chit-Chat, Dilly-Dally, Shilly-Shally, Tip-Top, Hip-Hop, Flip-Flop, Tic Tac, Sing Song, Ding Dong, King Kong, Ping Pong.

There is another unwritten rule in the name Little Red Riding Hood, says the article "Adjectives in English absolutely have to be in this order: opinion-size-age-shape-colour-origin-material-purpose noun. So you can have a lovely little old rectangular green French silver whittling knife. But if you mess with that word order in the slightest you will sound like a maniac."

That explains why we say "little green men" not "green little men" but "Big Bad Wolf" sounds like a gross violation of the "opinion (bad)-size (big)-noun (wolf)" order. It will not though, if you recall the first rule about I-A-O order. That rule seems inviolable:

"all four of the horse's feet make exactly the same sound, but we always say clip-clop and never clop-clip".

This rule even has a technical name, if you care to know it: the rule of ablaut reduplication. But then life is simpler knowing that we know the rule without knowing it.

Just a little Geography:

S.M.O.M: The actual smallest sovereign entity in the world is the Sovereign Military Order of Malta (S.M.O.M.) it is located in the city of Rome, Italy and has an area of two Tennis Courts. As of 2001 has a population of 80, 20 less than the Vatican. It is a sovereign entity under International Law, just as the Vatican is.

Take care,

**Alan Harding - Chairman**

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## Brian's Musings



I would like a quiet and peaceful life but alas find myself to be in a minority of one. No doubt plenty of other people would agree, would affirm that they have similar requirements but I suspect that they say so just to appear friendly and sociable; there is the possibility that they too might really want a quiet and peaceful life, if and when they give the matter any thought but the reality is that they seem to be filling their lives with noisy, vexatious and stressful events and people from which they appear to be unwilling or unable to escape.

It is probably true that anything pristine, pure and still seems to be inviting disturbance. A quiet, self-contained country invites invasive 'help' from a super-power; a landscape of freshly fallen snow must be instantly defiled and a quiet interior has to be filled with chatter. Once it was known that I was going to be completely alone for a few days recently, people, with the best of intentions, were determined to come and make sure that I was 'alright'. I am glad to be able to report that I was able to resist them.

People wish each other 'peace' every Christmas and then do all they can to ensure that they do not get any. Incidentally I was very interested to hear, via the daily news, that this year Christmas (the entire event as far as I could tell) was going to be anchored off-shore as there were no ports free by which it could be delivered. It will therefore have to be cancelled. I imagined that Christmas came to us from the Middle East but now, apparently, it all comes in containers from China.

In another news item I discovered that it was in the power of our Prime Minister to deliver Christmas. Presumably he has some special relationship with God. I mistakenly assumed that the Queen, as head of the Anglican Communion, would have some say in the matter. I am now wondering if there are any containers out there in the channel, packed tightly with high quality, Chinese Peace waiting to be down-loaded and transported (lorries and drivers permitting) to fill up our empty churches. I notice that there are already some stale and tired looking Christmas

items in the shops so there might also be, with a bit of luck, some peace left over from last year; even so it is bound to be in short supply.

But this is all very perplexing and stress inducing and I have decided to waste no more time and energy on such issues. It has become abundantly clear to me that if I am serious about wanting peace and quiet I have to make my own; it shouldn't be too difficult. All you have to do is stop wanting stuff, cut out all the noise – especially all the inner talking, and enjoy the silence that follows. If you get interrupted – and you will! Don't react!!! Just go back to where you were and carry on where you left off.

Peace!

Brian Gill

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## ATTENTION ALL MEMBERS!

Joan Benton, who has been organising tea and coffee service for some years, has announced that it will resume at the meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>. On this occasion Joan herself plus one other will serve the drinks but it is normally run on a roster and she will be looking for volunteers to go on the rota. It is neither an onerous job nor a frequently occurring one if enough members volunteer.

Sugar will be in packets to avoid contamination and there will be no biscuits offered yet. Joan organises milk, tea and coffee so all that volunteers have to do really is, pour out the drinks and set out and clear the cups before putting them away.

Please give your names and contact numbers to Joan at the next meeting if you can help. **WE ALL ENJOY OUR REFRESHMENTS SO COME ALONG AND VOLUNTEER!**

**Please don't forget to bring your cheque book to pay your subs** which Gwyneth will be collecting at the meeting on October 28<sup>th</sup>. The amount is a very reasonable £12 and cheques are the preferred method of payment please.

Remember to bring correct change for the £1 at the door – this goes towards the hire of the hall and refreshments.

Thank you!

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## DATES TO NOTE

### Social Meetings

28th October 2021

DVD: The RMS Windsor Castle. Documentary about the ship and sailing to South Africa.



25th November 2021 DVD: The secrets, the dreams and the romance of the Wirral.

6th January 2022 DVD: Reflections of Liverpool and Wirral. From 1900 to 2000.

3rd February 2022 DVD: Merseyside at war 1939-1945.

3rd March 2022 COLIN'S QUIZ.

31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 George Sullivan, retired MP and MEP will give a light hearted talk about his experiences.

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## SPEAKERS SO FAR FOR THE SEASON 2021-22



11th November 2021	Gavin Chappell.	Wirral Smugglers.
9th December 2021	CHRISTMAS LUNCH AT PRENTON GOLF CLUB	
20 <sup>th</sup> January 2022	Hilbre Bird Observatory	John Elliot
17 <sup>th</sup> February 2022	Birkenhead Tramways	Rob Jones
17 <sup>th</sup> March 2022	Behind the Scenes on TV Theatre	Fiona Martin
14th April 2022	Jean Finley.	Nursery Rhymes.
12th May 2022	John Michael Corfe.	The China Farm
9th June 2022	Keith Warrender.	Dunham Massey Ship
7 <sup>th</sup> July 2022	Philip Caine	Barrow to Bagdad

**Colin Stredder**

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## GROUP NEWS



**Local History:** There will be no meetings of the Group during November or December but meetings will restart in January, every third Monday in the month. They will be held in the Session Room from 2-4pm. If you would like a reminder email with dates and topics please email: [history@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:history@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

**Amateur Astronomy:** Was already “in limbo” before the pandemic, and Judith Wylie does not want to continue with this. Paul Cullen who was co-leader of the group has indicated that he would be able to continue in a limited way – see below.

**Walking:** As Gerry Riley may not be returning to U3A, the walking Group needs a new leader. Tony Swarbrick has stepped in as a temporary measure.

**Debating:** **Tony Sullivan has offered to lead a new Discussion Group** Tony will host this group from his home in Upton – day and time to be decided. Those interested should e-mail me at this address. [groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

**Poetry:** Martin Hesketh  
In abeyance for time being

**Scrabble:** Dorothy Pettard  
Suspended for time being.

If you are interested in taking over as leader of any of the groups above or starting a new group with similar aims / interests please e-mail Tony at the address shown below.

[groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

**A Book and a Glass of Wine:** Judith Whaley  
Meet on last Thursday of month. The group is full at the moment, but vacancies may occur if all do not return.



**Art Appreciation:** Bernadette Hamilton  
On Wednesday November 17<sup>th</sup> the Group will visit the Lady Lever Gallery to view an exhibition: Sublime Symmetry – De Morgan Ceramics.

**Amateur Astronomy:** Paul Cullen  
Paul has offered to keep members informed of significant astronomic events to watch for.



**Bridge:** Tony Swarbrick, Joan Parfect  
[bridge@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:bridge@oxtonu3a.co.uk)  
Meetings will be in “The Cabin” at Trinity. Meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesdays each month, 10.30a.m. to 12. We meet to play friendly relaxed bridge, Joan and myself are on hand to offer advice to less experienced players and from time to time offer “teaching” sessions for people new to the game. New members welcome.



**Book Club:** Mary O’Neill  
Mary will contact members shortly to make arrangements for restarting.



**Creative Writing:** Monica Price



Anyone interested should get in touch with Monica, please. She will shortly be contacting group members for details of her restart.



**Lunch Circle:**

Meet at the Carnarvon on November 16<sup>th</sup> for lunch at 1 pm.

**Music Appreciation:** Paul Cullen

Roll up Roll up form an orderly queue in our aural cinema (session room) as Brian Jones takes us on a Musical Journey to places we may not have heard before, no passports or visas required, Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November 2 to 4 pm thanks Paul !



**New Book** Monica Price.

This Group has continued to operate via Zoom during lockdown



**Boules:** Anyone interested in joining this group this group, to play Boules at Ashton Park, West Kirby, please contact Maureen Oldham.



[groupcordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:groupcordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

*Tony Swarbrick*

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**Committee Vacancy**

We are still looking for another Committee Member to plan Social meetings once a month and help take part in the general running of our U3A. Colin Stredder has taken over the booking of the main Speaker Meetings. Anyone interested in taking this on should contact a Committee Member at the next meeting.

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**Christmas Lunch**

Our Christmas lunch takes place on December 9<sup>th</sup> at the Prenton Golf Club at 12 noon for 12.30 meal. We look forward to a really enjoyable social occasion, particularly as we were unable to stage it last year due to Covid. If you haven't booked already do get your names down together with your menu choice and table setting.



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**VISIT TO THE WALKER ART GALLERY ON OCTOBER 20<sup>TH</sup>**

Bernadette organised visit to the Walker Art Gallery to view an exhibition of 'Sickert: A Life in Art' Exhibition on October 20<sup>th</sup>. It was very well supported and proved most interesting as few of us were really familiar with his work



which started in the late nineteenth century and continued until a few years before his death in his eighties, in 1942. He was a prolific painter and a well regarded one. Born in Munich, Germany, his family moved to England in 1868 when he was a child. He also worked in France and Venice. He worked as an apprentice to Whistler who became a great influence in his work together with the French artist Degas.

Sickert was a radical painter who wanted to capture a changing society as he saw it; including the bad as well as the good and he frequently reinvented himself. He belonged to the Camden Group of artists whose aim was to reflect the realities of modern urban life through art. In 1926 he married his third wife, Therese Llessore, also an artist of repute whom he had known for a considerable time and who looked after him as his health started to fail in his final years. Many of his later paintings were copied from photographs which she had taken.

The earlier paintings on show seemed very dark, though perhaps the ones painted of the Music Hall audiences were indicating a darkened auditorium and some of the Venice ones indicating the approach of nightfall. Later paintings were much lighter in tone. The Walker Gallery holds one of the largest collections of his sketches and work.

Thank you Bernadette for organising a most interesting visit.

Ed.

A few of the large group who came along!



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## WALKING GROUP

Sandra Lakin leads a walk around the Ness/ Burton area on Friday 29<sup>th</sup>. The Group will meet at the Wheatsheaf Inn, Neston at 10.15 for a 10.30am start and will return to the pub for lunch

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## Photographs you might like:

'Rain over Hilbre' painted by Steve Jones with water colour and pastels on paper.



Photograph by Corinne Whitham taken from her bedroom: 'Good Morning Dawn'



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## June Wilson

It is with sadness that we report that June passed away recently; her funeral was held at Trinity on October 7<sup>th</sup> and was attended by a number of our members. She was well known in the local community and led our Play Reading group. We will miss her.

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## A letter to the u3a movement

Liz Thackray, Chair of the Third Age Trust, has written an open letter to u3a members. Read it by clicking the button below and please share with your u3a community.

[An Open Letter to u3a Members](#)

### Join our 40th Anniversary Quilt Competition

We know that there are many Craft and Quilting groups in the 1050+ u3as which make up our membership. Would you please ask whether your members are planning to create, or even better, have already created an entry for the [u3a 40th Anniversary Quilt competition](#)?

We want the entries to show how versatile, skilful and creative members are in their interpretation of what they believe encourages Positive Healthy Ageing.

The more entries we receive the more variety there'll be.

You've still got over a month in which to send in your entries. [There's a recording of the workshop](#) which was run to show you the sort of entry you might create: watch the recording, read more about the 40th anniversary and submit entries on our 40th anniversary webpage

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### COVID NOTES

Please wear face masks during the meeting.

Hand sanitisers are available on entering.

Please do not gather in large groups.

If a queue develops, please keep a safe distance apart.

Thanks but please do not stack chairs after the meeting as they have to be sanitised before being put away.

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



Registered Charity number 1159091

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## ***AND FINALLY.....***

Groups are gradually resuming activities and next Thursday's meeting should be a busy one when we pay our subs and register for another year's membership. As you can see we are still short of a Committee member; is anyone out there interested in helping with running our U3A? If anyone has an interesting idea for an outing next year and would like to organise it, please talk to a Committee member so that we can discuss the project at a meeting. **HELP WOULD BE GIVEN.**

I hope that you are all getting your booster jabs to strengthen your defences against Covid; I had mine last week. There still seems to be a considerable amount of infection about but if we continue to take basic precautions and are vaccinated, the effect should be minimal should we be unfortunate enough to catch it,

Please keep sending me any bits of news that you think would be of interest to members, or any unusual photos from holidays etc. I look forward to seeing many of you at the meeting on the 28<sup>th</sup>.

***Eliane Davie***  
***- Editor***



**Eliane Davie - Editor**

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