



November Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

"World Heritage Status" for Birkenhead Park?

To quote "Wirral View"

"Birkenhead Park is one of seven sights now on the UK's 'tentative list', which is only published around every 10 years and only contains places that the government believes have the best chance of becoming a UNESCO World Heritage Site". If this should indeed happen to the world's 'First Public Park', it is nothing less than Birkenhead Park deserves.

Whilst walking to Bidston Hill via Flaybrick Cemetery, as Elizabeth and I often do, I could not help but notice all the hard work and enthusiasm put in by parents to decorate their homes for Halloween.

They included *giant spiders* and *giant spider webs*, somewhat resembling the rigging of a *galleon from a bygone era*. *Skeletons* sitting together on garden seats and benches, enjoying conversation and an out of body experience!

Could all of this adornment be for the children? Or perhaps, for the child in the parents? Seasonal Halloween fun, to be enjoyed by all the family!

Kind Regards,
Alan Harding



Note for Team Leaders

Could Team Leaders please let Terence have notice of changes by lunchtime on the Friday before a meeting, in order to give him time to do the Power Point. Thank you.



Ancient Gods & Old Masters - Art Appreciation Group

Presentation by Bernadette Hamilton



On October 18th Bernadette gave us an entertaining and illuminating talk on paintings featuring the Ancient Gods, worshipped by Greeks and Romans. She used the works of four artists to illustrate:

1. Botticelli's "Birth of Venus" painted in 1485 and "Mars & Venus" painted in 1483;
2. Titian's "Titus & Ariadne" painted in 1522-3 and "Diane & Actaeon" painted 1556-9;
3. Rubens, "The Judgement of Paris" painted in 1636,
4. Valazquez's "Rokeby Venus" painted 1647 and "Las Hilanderas", painted in 1657

Bernadette included the back stories of some of the Gods featured in the paintings. The latter appeared to have existed in some parallel universe and tales of their relationships and lives were highly entertaining.

Many thanks Bernadette for yet another insight into the lives and ideas that inspired some of the world's greatest artists!

Lunch Group – Queens Arms, Oxtou

Our lunch, this time at the Queens Arms, was attended by quite a large number of members who enjoy trying different venues. It is always an enjoyable occasion; good company and usually good food – what's not to like! Colin plans our locations well and we thank him for the work he does.



Ed.



Christmas Lunch

The next meeting on November 9th will be your last chance to book a place. Barbara Winstanley will be at her table selling tickets for the event and taking orders for menu choices at the same time. Price of tickets is £36 payable by cheque and includes: three courses, the tip, coffee and mince pies, plus a raffle ticket.



Barbara has organised the event again including the raffle and prizes (one for each table) which she wraps beautifully! A big thank you from us all.

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA OCTOBER TO 7th December 2023

Please contact Joan Benton on 0151 608 6226 if you would like to change your duty date.

9th November: Poppy Lewis
Margaret Greenwood

23th November: Gwyn Thomas
Eileen Slater

Speakers September 2023 – March 2024

9th November - Anthony Annakin-Smith – 'History of Parkgate'



7th December - Barry Humphries - 'The Great British Christmas'

18th January 2024 - Mary Clinton - 'A.L. and the influence of Linguistic Research'

15th February - Ken Pye - 'Curious & Amazing Tales of Merseyside'

14th March - Su Thomson - 'Victorian Millinery & Prostitution'

Speakers after the above will be posted later

2023 Social meetings

November 23rd - Tony has arranged for the Heswall U3A Ukulele Group to come to play for us on a Social Thursday, November 23rd. There is no charge but the Group does support a charity, "The Eye Fund" led by one of their members and Tony suggests that a small donation of £1 per person would be acceptable.



Lunch Group Dates

Colin Stredder



21st November 2023. Caernarfon Castle, Bidston Road, Oxton

That takes us up to Christmas. Please add your names to the list at the meeting or let Colin know if you are coming.

Group News

A Book and a Glass of Wine: Judith Whaley



Meet on last Thursday of month, November 30th. The group is full at the moment.

Bridge: Tony Swarbrick

Meetings will be in "The Cabin" at Trinity and are held on 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays each month, 10.15am to 12.30. We meet to play friendly relaxed bridge and new members are always welcome. Next meetings are November 1st & 15th; **please note that the 1st is in place of the 8th this month** when Tony will be away.



Book Club: Mary O'Neill:

Meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm. Mary has room for one or two more members; anyone interested should contact Tony Swarbrick our Group Co-ordinator.

Lunch Circle: Colin Stredder: The next meeting is on November 21st at the Caernarfon Castle, Bidston Road. 12.45 for 1pm lunch. Please sign in at the meeting or contact Colin.

Walking Group: Ken Jackson. The next walk is on November 10th. It is a short 3 mile Remembrance walk which will be followed by lunch. Meet at Bache Station-last stop before Chester. Please sign up to take part. Please sign up at the next meeting when there will be further information.

Art Appreciation Group: Bernadette Hamilton. The next meeting is on November 15th in the Session Room and will be a presentation by Carolyn Conroy on Simeon Solomon. At 10am.

Music Appreciation: Paul Cullen. Next meeting on November 6th. Bring a CD that you enjoy. Meetings 1st Monday of the month.

Drawing Group: Pauline Horner. Next meeting November 3rd. Pauline will be away but the class will be run by Kathy. Classes are the first Friday of the month.

Play reading group: Eliane Davie: Meetings are on the 2nd Tuesday of the month. Next will be November 14th at 10am. We will be reading “The Unexpected Guest” by Agatha Christie, followed by either “Up Pompeii” or “Shakespeare Country” by Peter Whelan.

Craft Group: Joan Benton. Meetings take place on the 4th Monday of each month; next meeting November 27th. Joan may be able to fit in another couple of members.

Nordic Walking: Corinne Whitham. The group meets every Tuesday at 10am, at the Visitor Centre in Birkenhead Park. If you can't come every week simply come when available, as often or little as suits. Open to all, why not give it a try? A pair of poles is essential; standard walking ones will do to start. Lightweight walking shoes or trainers are best. Expect to walk for one hour at a smart pace.

New Book Group: Joyce Woosley

Location: Wallasey

When: Initially 3rd Thursday of each month starting October 19th

Time: 10.30am

When the group is established it may be possible to change the day of the meeting.

Interested? Contact via groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Bring a biography of someone you admire or want to discuss to inaugural meeting.

Thanks, Tony Swarbrick.

Attention Group Leaders

We frequently have photos of the Walking Group, the Lunch Group, the Art Appreciation Group and the Nordic Walking Group in the newsletter: it would be lovely if the other groups could send us pictures of some of the others in action! So please, email me your photos so that they can be included in our Christmas edition, or you can send them from your phones.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP SEPTEMBER-NOVEMBER

November 15th

TWPG Session room: -“Simeon Solomon”

Presentation by Carolyn Conroy



Late News!

Shakespeare North Playhouse, Prescot.

Guided Tour 1hour 15mins Group rate £9.50pp November 2nd

There is plenty of parking space if you go by car, or use your Bus Pass and go by Public Transport. Buses stop at the door. Train is a 12-minute walk. Bus stops are outside theatre and are frequent.



Afternoon Tea is available @ £12, Soup of the Day £2 extra.

Tea/Coffee available on arrival at group price of £3

Bus travel is from Queens Square Bus Station: Stand 2 (at the lower end) No: 10 or 10A. Journey takes approx 55minutes; look out for a large hotel sign with a Crown about two stops before the theatre. The Tour commences at 11.30am.

The Athenaeum Club

Guided Tour 1½ hours Group rate £17pp

Price includes glass of their own label Club wine.

The Athenaeum is an iconic institution; a place to relax, and entertain friends, family, colleagues and clients in the most luxurious and historic surroundings the City of Liverpool has to offer.

For More information Google “<https://theathenaeum.org.uk>”

Put your name on the list.

Date(s) will be arranged if sufficient interest.

Speaker Meeting “All Things Auctioneering” presented by John Crane

There was certainly a great deal of interest and enthusiasm for this talk with excellent attendance as you will see in the photos! John covered a wide area on the different factors involved on an interesting subject, spoilt only by a problem with the mike and his very quiet delivery. People at the back of the room experienced some difficulty with hearing him unfortunately. We need to get an up- to- date hand free mike, which would be much better for people trying to use their hands or read notes at the same time as speaking. What a fun morning though! Many thanks for an interesting talk, John.



Ed.

A Surprise talk: “Across the Mersey” on October 26th

Members who attended the meeting on October 26th enjoyed an unexpected but really interesting talk from Gavin Hunter, about the Mersey and all its Piers, past and present; who would have thought there were so many! It was illustrated with some wonderful photos of the river, going back to the days of sail up to the present day. Sadly, as it was unexpected, the audience was smaller than usual but very appreciative. Gavin has talks on several fields of local interest and we hope to invite him back.

A Son to be Proud of: Barbara Winstanley tells us why.

Stan is a 44year old RAF chief technician with over 25 years of service and is nearing the finish line of an awe inspiring charity run. Come rain or shine, he’s laced up his

running shoes for more than 1,000 consecutive days, covering a jaw dropping distance greater than that from London all the way to Tokyo! Stan embarked on this Herculean challenge with a dual mission: to support the RAF Association (RAFA), a lifeline for veterans and air force families, and Cancer Research UK. When he crosses the finishing line at the end of 2023, Stan will have run an astounding 6,800 miles – that’s like sprinting across continents!

So far he has completed over 1,000 days of running 10km. and has covered over 7,500 miles eclipsing the original target with months to spare. This was achieved without any rest days; 2021, 2022 and 2023 straight. Stan is closing in on having run for three whole years at the rate of 10km every day!

He says: “Both charities are worthy causes. I’ve seen friends and family suffer with cancer and being in the RAF myself, have seen the support that RAFA gives to people.” Stan has completed these 10k’s either on; group park runs, race events or individual efforts, running half marathons in London and the annual 10k races in Nottingham and Lincoln in the process, as well as completing The Great North Run, and even jogging on a canal holiday in the Midlands.

Stan: “The longer you do it the more imperative it is that you carry on. It has been more of a mental game than anything now; it’s important to maintain the motivation to get out and do it, it’s mostly about perseverance”

So far Stan has raised £350 for RAFA and more than £250 for Cancer Research UK. He hopes to raise considerably more. If you would like to help you can do so by visiting JustGiving pages for RAFA fundraising, or Cancer Research UK fundraising.



The challenge has allowed Stan to become close with the rest of Lincoln's runner community.



Come rain or shine, Stan is out there running for good causes.



Prepare to be amazed: Stan, a 44-year-old RAF chief technician, is nearing the finish line of an awe-inspiring three-year charity run that eclipses marathons and ultra-

What an achievement! U3A member Barbara Winstanley is understandably proud of her son who has lost over five stone in the process and is still running until the end of

the year. Anyone who would like to contribute to either of his charities please follow the instructions above. Ed.

Books and Jigsaws



Thank you everyone for thinning down the books and jigsaw collections; they are at a much more manageable number now and we can return to bringing in books and jigsaws for exchange again. In the interest of not getting stock in excess of storage space again, please keep to only bringing the number of books that you take – it seems to work really well!

Friendly Ear



If you know of any member who is sick, in hospital or in need of a friendly chat please let Mary Hamilton or Dot Matthews know.

Chairman: Alan Harding

Secretary: Carole Lapping

Business Secretary: Treasurer: Margaret Cullen

Groups Co-ordinator: Tony Swarbrick

Speaker Secretary: Pamela Southall

Membership Secretary: Pauline has resigned from this position for family reasons, so we are looking for someone to replace her in this important job. N.B. She will continue to lead the Drawing Group.

Newsletter Editor: Eliane Davie: Leader of Play Reading Group

Ken Jackson; Leader of Walking Group

Brian Jones

And finally.....

This year seems to have passed so quickly; it's quite a shock to realise that Christmas is almost upon us. The fireworks have already started firing off near my neck of the woods, we have our outing to the new Shakespeare Theatre next Thursday (2nd) and the next U3A Meeting is on November 9th with Speaker, Anthony Annakin-Smith talking about "History of Parkgate". It's going to be quite a busy month ending with our Christmas dinner towards the end of the month.

Could I just remind people contributing to the newsletter to please try to get news to me no later than the 20th of the month before the issue, to give me time to check it and get it proof read before it goes out. Some of the information I need has been very late in getting to me recently and it makes things very rushed!

As always I hope that you find the newsletter useful and please remember to send anything you feel may be of interest to the members.



Eliane Davie - Editor



