



April 2024 Newsletter

AGM MEETING

25th April 2024

Our AGM is an important part of our yearly calendar - which helps shape our future. Please attend. Remember – if you would like to give something back to your u3a, it is easy to get involved, simply approach any of the committee.



U3A Fit for the Future Conference – Warrington

Corinne Whitham, Margaret Cullen and Carole Lapping attended the conference on behalf of Oxton and Prenton U3A. It was a chance to meet Liz Thackeray, the new chair of the Third Age Trust. As part of a nationwide tour of the movement she was presenting a consultation document which offers solutions to how we can develop communication and governance arrangements that meet future requirements, and which better reflect the nature of our organisation. She wants to bring board and trustees closer to the members. Carole commented that “It was a very good day with lots of networking with other N.W. groups and new links were forged, with new avenues to explore” The national picture is very similar to all the branches in that recruitment of volunteers willing to become committee members is difficult.

Su Thompson - Victorian Millinery and Prostitution



Su Thompson began a fascinating talk on this subject by explaining the trade of a milliner. We learned that making caps and cloaks and adorning hats requires significant skill and many girls were trained from the age of 14 through apprenticeships. The occupation was very difficult and when working by candlelight was very hard on their eyes. Successful entrepreneurs could become wealthy businesswomen; however, the girls were paid poorly and it is possible they looked for secondary employment.

We were given some figures to think about. In 1887 the Lancet stated there were 80,000 prostitutes in London. Research by reporter Henry Mayhew of London poor, gave the occupations of 'disorderly prostitutes' and the largest number (646), were milliners.

Su spoke of the paradox of the Victorian period with the story of covered piano legs and the moralistic novels and plays where shame was attached to the prostitute - the 'fallen woman'. In reality, men were seen as 'needing' to use women for sex and some wives turned a blind eye to their husbands' use of the sex trade as it relieved them of the burden of pregnancy and disease.

Su's interesting and entertaining talk ended on a lighter note with a discussion about the connection between prostitution and clothing. I think most of the women present had a quick look round the audience and we all thought of the contents of our own wardrobes!

Speakers April – July 2024

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|--------------------------|--|
| 11 th April – | Gillian & Peter Bolt – 'Thomas Brassey – Railway Builder Extraordinaire' |
| 9 th May – | Richard Mawdsley - Update of the development of Wirral Water's major regeneration |
| 6 th June – | Chris & Barbara Kay - The National Waterways Museum – a passage through time. |
| 4 th July – | David Hearn - The great Liverpool Sculptor – George Herbert Tyson Smith |

Pamela Southall

SOCIAL MEETINGS' PROGRAMME MARCH – JULY 2024

- March 28th Joyce Woosley will speak about: “Living in Panama 1963-72”
April 25th AGM
May 9th Helen Renner will speak about: “Coming from the Gold Coast to Liverpool in 1948”
June 20th Bill Nock will speak about: “My Time as a Mayor”
July 18th TBD

Eliane Davie

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA FROM April to July 2024

20 April 2024	Joyce Roberts Beryl Davies Jean Skillicorn
9 May 2024	Ellen Wilson Dorothy Mathews
23 May 2024	Gwyneth Williams Gwyn Thomas
6 June 2024	Barbara Baker Kathy Sullivan
20 June 2024	Eileen Slater Norah Murray
4 July 2024	Brenda George Mary Hamilton

Lunch group at The Basset Hound



Lunch Group Dates

16th April 2024:

Hickory's Smoke House

21st May 2024:

The Ship Hotel

18th June 2024:

The Irby Mill

16th July 2024:

An Afternoon Tea (to be arranged)

Colin Stredder

Group News



Walking Group

The walkers taking part in the Parkgate Walk

April Walk – TBA. Details at the next meeting

Thursday 25 July – Llandudno. We will be joining the U3A coach trip to Llandudno for our July trip. Details will be available nearer the time, in the meantime remember to book your seat on the coach.

Play Reading

Tues 9th April – ‘Private Lives’ – by Noel Coward

Held at Eliane’s house, with room for one more member.

Bridge Group

10th and 17th April in Cabin at TWPG

Rummikub

10th and 17th April in Cabin at TWPG. Sign up on sheet

Book Group 2024

18th April Be Careful What You Wish For - by Jeffrey Archer

16th May This is Going to Hurt - by Adam Kay

The Home Reader section of WBC libraries is able to supply copies.

Lunch Circle

16th April - Hickory's Smoke House. Sign up on sheet

Drawing

5th April – Subject: 'lead ins' in pictures.

3rd May - sketching in the church grounds.

New members always welcome



Craft Group

I've been attending Joan Benton's monthly craft group held at her home in Prenton for the last 6 months. On arrival, Joan and her dog Blake give us a warm welcome, and after unpacking our bags of craft materials around her dining table, we soon settle into a relaxing group. We all do different crafts and I've seen various skills on display – from the making of greeting cards

and Christmas decorations, embroidery of all types, stylish knits to hand sewing of clothing for humans and pets!



Sometimes you could hear a pin drop as we just sit quietly and make – it is very peaceful overlooking Joan’s Garden – other times there’s a great deal of laughter as we discuss our views of the world at large or chat about our lives and interests. Often it is difficult to make a quiet time for yourself in your own home - and we are very thankful to Joan for providing this oasis of calm and industry each month.

Art Appreciation





The Art of Bob Dylan presented by Jane Patterson-Wright

Castle Fine Art gallery has branches in many city centre high streets, it sells original art, limited edition Giclee prints and contemporary sculptures by varied modern artists including Billy Connolly, Jonny Depp and Ronnie Wood. Jane Patterson-Wright works for the Liverpool gallery and made time to come and give a talk about the art of singer songwriter and Nobel prize winner, Bob Dylan which she accompanied with numerous photographs, books and a framed print.

Dylan's art first came to public attention in 1968 when it was used on his album covers and Jane started her presentation with an image from the cover of his Self Portrait album, before moving on to his later work inspired by his time on the road – showing us urban landscapes of highways, bridges, trains and buildings and his explorations with colour. 'Mondo Scripto' - prints of his handwritten lyrics illustrated with pencil drawings, showed us a change in his artistic direction and Jane discussed the quality of his screen prints before finally she quoted Dylan as saying that because he had been around iron all his life he also enjoyed working in metal and she described the furniture and sculptures he made.

The conversation we took with us from this talk was that we all thought we knew Bob Dylan, we've all heard his music, it's been a familiar part of Western culture for the last 60 years - but this was a side that was new to us and it made us realise how multi-talented he is with images as well as words.

Summer Trips

To register your interest for all these trips mentioned below please sign the sheets in meetings or contact Wil by email trips@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Llandudno

Thursday 25th July (Note July - NOT June)

Coach trip to Llandudno. With a Stopover at Tweed Mill for Morning Coffee.

Cost approx £15 payable at meeting on 20th June 2024

Sign up now to book your place.

Twelfth Night

Matinee - Thursday, 13th June, 2024

Shakespeare North Playhouse

Twelfth Night with actor Les Dennis as Malvolio

Not a traditional Elizabethan production

“a brilliantly bold production with music”

Theatre ticket - £32.40 to be paid 11th April

Coach ticket £10 to be paid 9th May

Sign up now to book your place

RHS Flower Show, Tatton Park

Friday 19th July 2024

Groups 20-49 discounted to £28.85

Groups 50+ discounted to £24.85

There is an 85 pence service charge per ticket

To be paid at U3A Thursday meeting on 25th April, 2024

Sign up now to book your place

Coach tickets

Coach fee - Llandudno trip approx. £15.00 per head to be collected 20th June 2024

Coach fee - Shakespeare North approx. £10.00 per head to be collected 9th May 2024

Coach fee - RHS Tatton approx. £15 per head to be collected 6th June 2024

Books and Jigsaws

Thank you to those who help in the management of this resource; we have returned to bringing in books and jigsaws for exchange again. There seems to be plenty of variety and lots to interest readers. 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.



Committee Members

Chairman: Alan Harding

Secretary: Carole Lapping

Business Secretary: Treasurer: Margaret Cullen

Groups Co-ordinator: Tony Swarbrick

Speaker Secretary: Pamela Southall

Eliane Davie: Leader of Play Reading Group

Ken Jackson; Leader of Walking Group

Care of members

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

marycare@oxtonu3a.co.uk

dotcare@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Art Appreciation Bernadette Hamilton art@oxtonu3a.co.uk
3rd Wednesday each month 10.15am to 12pm. Cabin at TWPG or field trip

Bridge Tony Swarbrick bridge@oxtonu3a.co.uk
2nd and 3rd Wednesday each month 10.15am to 12.30pm. Cabin at TWPG

Book Club Mary O'Neill
2nd Tuesday each month 10am to 12pm. Oxton

Book and a Glass of Wine Judith Whaley
Last Thursday each month 7.30pm to 9pm. Oxton

Book Group 2024 Joyce Woosley book2@oxtonu3a.co.uk
3rd Thursday each month (unless general meeting) 10.30am to 12pm. Wallasey

Coach Trips and Outings Will Edwards trips@oxtonu3a.co.uk
By Arrangement – Check Notices and Newsletter

Craft Joan Benton craft@oxtonu3a.co.uk
4th Friday each month 2pm to 4pm. Prenton

Drawing Pauline Horner drawing@oxtonu3a.co.uk
1st Friday each month 10am to 12pm. Cabin at TWPG

Lunch Circle Colin Stredder lunch@oxtonu3a.co.uk
3rd Tuesday each month 12.45pm for 1pm. Various see Notices and Newsletter

Nordic Walking Corinne Whitham
Every Tuesday 10am to 11am. Birkenhead Park

Play Reading Eliane Davie playreading@oxtonu3a.co.uk
2nd Tuesday each month 10am to 12pm Oxton

Rummikub Tony Swarbrick rummikub@oxtonu3a.co.uk
2nd and 3rd Wednesday each Month 10.15am to 12.30pm. Cabin at TWPG

Walking Group Ken Jackson walks@oxtonu3a.co.uk
Usually last week of month on Friday, though day may vary.

Contact Group Leaders using email above or groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk

If you wish to start a New Group, please contact groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Note for Team Leaders

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

From Gill Russell U3A NW Regional chair

Dates for your diary:

Saturday 15th June - Big Sing in Liverpool

2nd July - NW Conference and AGM with entertainment by Fool's Gold.

13th - 16th August - NW Summer School. Booking is now available. Details are on the NW website.

<https://u3asites.org.uk/north-west/events>

We're going to have another Big Sing event this year. It will be on Saturday June 15th in Liverpool. This was the only date which coincided with both the venue and the presenter, but I hope it will be well supported even though it's a weekend. You can access the registration form here: <https://forms.gle/EY9hUmvagdTJQzqQ7>

The Big Sing

Saturday 15th June 2024, 10.15 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

The Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool.

Led by Fredrik Holm, music specialist and

Members of the North West Regional Team.

Programme

10.15 Refreshments and registration

10.55 Welcome & Introduction

11:00 – 12.15 First practice session

12.15 – 1.15 Lunch – bring your own or use the local cafes

1.15 – 2.15 Second practice session

2.15 – 2.45 Comfort break

2.45 – 3.30 The Big Sing – putting together everything you have learned

The venue is accessible and there is a lift to all floors. Parking is limited but there is a public carpark nearby and the venue is within walking distance of Lime Street and Central Stations.

If you book parking in advance through Q-Park you can obtain a discount using QUAKERSLV.

Please indicate if you have any special requirements with regard to seating or large print.

Cost for the event: £15.00 including refreshments.

Please note, lunch is not provided. Bring your own or use nearby cafes.

Please try to register by June 7th

By Online form using this link: <https://forms.gle/EY9hUmvagdTJQzqQ7>

or send name, u3a and contact details with a cheque for £15 payable to

North West Region of U3As

To G. Russell, 71 Barn Hey Crescent, Meols, Wirral CH47 9RW.

If you prefer to pay by BACs pay to North West Region of u3as,

Acc no: 00197002 Sort Code: 30-90-16 and add Big Sing as reference

**For more information contact Gill Russell: mob: 07710531876
u3anwrchair@gmail.com**

And finally.....

Thanks to everyone who helped with this edition of the newsletter, to Steve Cottam for proofreading, Corinne Whitham and Eliane Davie for photographs and additional material and Carole Lapping for information regarding national and regional u3a.

I've been sent a list of UN International Days by the public relations adviser to NW England and I'm happy to say that 30th March is 'International Day of Zero Waste'.

I hope this newsletter doesn't increase that amount!

Let's continue to stay active and stay engaged, share experiences, and cultivate our community.

Kathy

