



May Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It is strange how things work out. I seem to remember writing in a recent contribution to our newsletter that I could never have imagined my life as it actually turned out and I clearly remember saying to Colin Burkett, who was our U3A Chair at the time, that there was no way in which I could imagine being in that position myself. And here I am! I wish that I could assure you that I was the best of several willing and eager applicants for the position but in reality it does not work quite like that.

My valuation and esteem of the institution of the U3A is such that I well appreciate the need for there being highly qualified and capable people ready and willing to take on the position of Chair and we have been very fortunate in our last two (my experience does not back beyond that). Sandra did an amazing job in steering us through the difficult task of becoming a charity in our own right. Such are the legal and administrative pressures on the U3A system that doctorates in Law, Administration, Accountancy, Politics, Psychology and Social Science would clearly be of advantage to anyone willing to put themselves forward in an effort to perpetuate it. One also needs a robust physiology and a strong constitution. Clearly I cannot hope to measure up but I take comfort from the fact that our particular U3A is full of gifted, creative and highly skilled people who, I feel confident, will come forward whenever they see me floundering; indeed it is already happening.

Collectively we represent a wide range of formidable survival skills, together with a determination to 'keep the show on the road' and this is nowhere better demonstrated than in our exceptional committee. Even so I clearly have to learn a few new tricks, rather than just sitting about waiting to be rescued. It is no bad thing that people are reluctant to put themselves forward in order to fill administrative posts. A little humility can be more reassuring than egocentric self-assurance. In the U3A there is certainly a shortage of eager and ambitious candidates. We are all old enough to have learned better; but! – when somebody nudges you forward, regardless of how you feel about the matter personally, do not forget it is not really just about you, it is about us all – a collective association of creative and experienced individuals who value our U3A and want to keep it functioning. So with this happy thought in mind we can cheerfully enter the new phase that now lies before us.

Brian Gill
Chairman

AGM Prenton & Oxton U3A April 2019

Appointments to the Committee were as follows:

CHAIRMAN:	Brian Gill
VICE CHAIR (1)	Jean Mawdsley
VICE CHAIR (2)	Eliane Davie
BUSINESS SECRETARY	Marese Roberts
TREASURER	Ken Jackson
SPEAKER SECRETARY	Alan Harding
THEATRE VISITS	Barbara Lloyd

Would anyone be interested in taking on OUTINGS to work alongside Barbara?

Letter from Barbara Lloyd

As I step down from my role as *Social outings organiser* I feel the need to thank those of you who have accompanied me on many and varied outings and event over the past few years. With the invaluable help of Pauline Pinnington, Mary O’Neil and in particular, Barbara Winstanley who has herself organised many of these outings , we have taken you to Historic Houses/ Cathedrals/ a Mosque, ghost tours and boat trips plus many more. I do like to think that *I have taken you to places you didn’t even know you wanted to see*, and I thank you for many, many wonderful memories.

From the Autumn onwards I, personally, will only be offering theatre and music venue outings and hope that you will continue to join me. **Please** let me know if there is something in particular you consider may be worth seeing. I may not always be able to book everything but do always consider suggestions.

Obviously **your U3A** needs a new social outings organiser so please someone, an individual or a couple of friends take this opportunity to organise a couple of events **with a lot of help and advice** to see if the role appeals to you before you commit to it.

Barbara Lloyd

(With a tear in my eye)

LUNCH GROUP

Dates to note for 2019 MEET AT 12.45 for 1pm

May 21st

The Pesto (Dibbinsdale)



June 18th

The Travellers' Rest

July 16th

Peel Hey – afternoon tea Please note time: 2.30 pm



COLIN STREDDER

Photos by Corinne Whitham

Lunch at the Toby Carvery on April 16th



TEA AND COFFEE ROTA

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

9th May

Sue Porter

Ruth Trace

Sue Phillips

June 6th

Barbara Baker

Kathy Sullivan

Ann Jou

June 20th

Judith Wylie

Dorothy Mathews

Eliane Davie

July 4th

Grieg Roberts

John Roberts

Ann Hillier

July 7th

Doreen Alig

Valerie Edwards

Margaret Yeardsley



I would like to call on more members to volunteer to help serve tea and coffee at our meetings. It is a really good way of getting to know other members and is not onerous. I would probably call on you to do this duty only twice a year and the more volunteers we get the less there is to do.

Thank you and I look forward to hearing from you.

Joan Benton: tel. 608 6226

SOCIAL OUTINGS

EVENTS

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



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COACH COSTS are dependent on numbers travelling so it may be necessary to adjust prices slightly from time to time.

EVENTS

THURSDAY 30 MAY 2019

WEST TOWER TOUR of Royal Liver Building

£15

70 Minute guided tour climbing from 10th to 15th Floors

Involves quite a number of steps (approx 124)

71 of these steps are narrow spiral stone staircase.

Classed as 'strenuous' – more information available

On social desk

Booking Closed



SUMMER OUTING 2019

ERDDIG– widely acclaimed as one of Britain's finest historic houses

Tuesday 4th June

Entrance: Free to National Trust members /adult rate for others £11.50

Coach : All to pay £8.50

Schedule

Depart Trinity with Palm Grove 9.30am to arrive 10.30 am

House open 12.30am – 15.30pm

Plenty of time to enjoy gardens and have lunch

Return home 16.30pm arriving at 17.30pm approx



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THEATRE

Recent Theatre bookings – **collect Tickets**

PLAYHOUSE

HEART OF DARKNESS



A retelling of this classic – includes digital technology

THURSDAY 2 MAY @ 5.30pm

Booking closed meet at theatre for 5.30pm

SWEENEY TODD – Everyman - Tuesday 14 May @ 7.30pm

Cost £22

Booking closed

Tickets available to collect at meeting on 9th May



LES MISERABLES

EMPIRE Theatre Tuesday 15 OCTOBER @ 7.30pm

£39 Circle seats

(Best medium priced seats for an expensive show)

Booking until the end of June

May withdraw if insufficient interest



MEETINGS and SPEAKERS 2019



Thursday 23rd May

Witches and Superstitions: their effect on modern culture - Jean Finney. We might like to think that in an age of scientific rationalism we are free from the effects of demonology. Not so! Jean Finney has entertained us on two previous occasions and is returning in response to popular demand.

Thursday 20th June

Confessions of a Probation Officer - Ray O'Brien. We know that whatever Ray O'Brien shares with us will be a subject of great mirth. His talks are always a rare treat.

Thursday 18th July

Major Predators of Liverpool Bay - Matthew Clough. Matthew Clough will be sharing with us aspects of the work that he knows and values. He may well reveal aspects of which we might not be aware when we survey or even enter the waters of Liverpool Bay.

Thursday 12th September

Through the Eye of a Magician - Peter Turner. Peter Turner comes to us supported by a wealth of professional experience. He might possibly challenge the way in which we see things.

Thursday 10th October

Viking and Saxon History on Merseyside - Diana Goodier. Diana Goodier, a devoted historian, will make her talk particularly relevant to The Wirral and promises to dress for the occasion.

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.

NOTES OF ACTIVITIES AT NON- SPEAKER MEETINGS

Thursday May 9 th	Tony Storey will talk about the Liver Building.
Thursday June 6 th	Wallasey U3A's The Replay (via Brian)
Thursday July 4 th	Colin is doing a dance anagram – on dance.

Colin Stredder

CREATIVE WRITING

CHEESED OFF



There were Police outside the house-- not just one lonely copper on a sit-up-and-beg bike, no, there were bloody hundreds of them, or so it seemed. I hadn't slept well after the previous night's alcoholic excesses, but just after I'd managed to nod off in the early hours of that chilly February morning, I was suddenly wrenched out of my slumber by the urgent klaxon of a fleet of police cars, their blue flashing lights creating a surreal, almost space-age-story aura of light against the gloomy night sky.



Peeling back the curtain of the tiny bedroom in my upstairs flat, standing there in my scruffy T shirt and frayed boxers, I surveyed the scene: armies of black helmeted robo cops spread out in front of the terrace, their vehicles splayed inelegantly across the road. Then the manic shouting; Police: 'Put your hands above your heads and leave the building', and a sickening crash as the battering ram launched into the door next to my place, destroying it in a flurry of creaks and splintering wood. This wasn't your friendly Dixon of Dock Green dropping in for a friendly, 'Evening all' chat. This was the full works, the complete cast in glorious Technicolor with a pounding quadraphonic sound track.

But there was no one in.

I heard mutters disappointment and then - oh no! They were going to knock at my door! I struggled to climb into a scruffy track suit, pulled some sweaty trainers on, and went down to my front door. 'Sorry for the disturbance, Sir, but we have been involved in an exercise involving next door, which has proved fruitless, so we need to talk to you to see if you can help us find a couple of your neighbours'.

'You can't come in.' I spluttered. 'The place is a total mess'. I also knew that they would probably find my stash of 'souvenirs' from various boozy nights on the town, namely a couple of traffic cones, a road-up sign, a police hi-vis jacket (where on earth did that come from?) and an unscrewed blue plaque commemorating the birthplace of Lord Tennyson.

'Well, come down for a chat at the station. We'll give you a cup of coffee' (They must have sensed my recent intake of Skull Splitter Old Ale).

'Ok' if I must' I murmured, rather relieved.

Inspector Hardy, a tall man with a pencil-thin moustache, took over the inquiry. He pressed the button on the tape-recorder thing and asked me about my neighbours. 'I didn't see much of them' I said. 'We kept to ourselves. I knew there were at least two blokes there. I assumed they worked on evening shifts somewhere.'

'Well', said Hardy. 'We have reason to believe that those two men are involved in serious drug-related crime and acts of violent gun crime, including murder.'

My heart started to race and beads of sweat appeared on my forehead. How close had I been to getting myself shot? What a waste! Such a talented young man on the threshold of a great career, or so I thought, possibly being cut down in his prime by some latter-day Al Capone.

'We need some help in finding these guys before they commit more crimes. A man was shot dead last night in the city centre, and your neighbours are implicated. Please rack your brains to see if you can remember anything that might give us a clue.'

The police coffee was slowly coursing through my veins to a point where that fuzzy feeling in my brain was beginning to lift. 'I did once see some scuba diving equipment in the back yard,' I ventured.

'Interesting' mused Hardy. 'That means that they either have a boat or access to one. You may have to come with us to help identify them'

So, what followed took me well out of my routine of calling in at lectures every now and then and propping up the union bar. Driving at great speed in the back of a souped-up Jag police car, we drove in convoy for what seemed like a few hours or so, to the south-west coast. 'Why Lyme Regis?' I asked, as we passed a sign indication 10 miles to go.

'Ah, well' said Hardy knowingly. 'When we searched the house we found evidence of these characters having visited this part of the world. We're not just bumbling Bobbies, you know. Our forensics people made the breakthrough.'

I'm new to these things, although I have watched 'Silent Witness' on the odd occasion, but I'm not too keen on the excessive body count. Those poor actors who have to be smeared in imitation blood and then lie motionless. I couldn't do it. 'So, what led you to Lyme Regis?' I continued.

'It was all on the knife'; said Hardy. 'Our people found some dirty plates in the house and what looked like a trace of cheese on a knife. The local deli, with help from our lab people, was able to identify the smear as *Lyme Regis Dorset Special*, an orange coloured cheese with a blue mould. We also found that Lyme Regis is a popular area for scuba diving as there are some old submarines there. If I could use a biblical expression, blessed are the cheese makers!'

A fast police launch was waiting at the jetty and Hardy's team raced off in the direction of the diving area. I later found that they gave chase to a Manhattan Sunseeker cabin cruiser and had to use grappling irons to apprehend the boat and Tasers to stun its occupants who were attempted to use firearms.

The two villains were just about to set off in their expensive craft, funded by drugs money, to France where they could lie low for a while.

As the police returned the two men to the jetty, still in wet suits, but with their diving masks removed, Hardy motioned towards them and mouthed to me 'Are these your neighbours?' I nodded.

A few months later, a parcel arrived from Amazon. Inside was a presentation pack of *Lyme Regis Dorset Cheese* and a little note from Hardy, saying: 'Thanks for your help in bringing those two scoundrels to justice. They've just started a 10 year residence at Pentonville, where expensive cheese will not be on the menu. Hard cheese to them!'



Robin Thomas

NOTE: Monica Tyse, 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

Walk on Friday 26th April 2019.

A Circular walk of under 5 miles led by Gerry Riley starting and finishing at Hawarden near Queens Ferry. We enjoyed an excellent lunch at the 'Food For Thought' Restaurant in the Gladstone Library after the walk and some of us stayed on for a talk and a look at the Library itself, donated by William Gladstone Prime Minister. We also had a look at the beautiful old church next to it which has some really lovely stained glass windows and where Gladstone was interred.



The weather was not the greatest but we really enjoyed an interesting walk in what was new territory for most of us and the Gladstone Library building is well worth a visit. Thank you Gerry for introducing us to yet another part of our countryside. Gerry and Barbara recommend the Sunday lunch there too, which they partook of when checking the walk!



Ed.



The Gladstone Library

The nearby church where Gladstone and many of his family are buried.

ART APPRECIATION GROUP

Dates for U3A History of Art meetings.
All meetings in Trinity Session room start at 10.15a.m. unless otherwise stated:



Here is our programme to November 2019

Wednesday May 15th 2019: Visit Walker Art gallery – meet in foyer 10.15am.

“Charles Rennie Mackintosh, making the Glasgow Style”

Wednesday June 19th 2019: Visit Lady Lever Art Gallery. – meet in foyer 10.30 am.

“Rembrandt in Print”

Wednesday July 17th 2019: Meet at 11 am, address to follow:

Hazel at Home

NO MEETING IN AUGUST 2019

Wednesday September 18th 2019: visit to the Tate Gallery, Liverpool. Meet in foyer at 10.45 am.

Constellations, Interactive Exhibition

Wednesday October 16th 2019: In Session Room start at 10.15 am.

Vasili Kaninsky, (1866-1944). Bernadette leads.

Wednesday November 20th 2019: In session Room start at 10.15am.

Caravaggio (1571-1610) Bernadette leads

NO MEETING IN DECEMBER

Please make a note in your diaries **Bernadette Hamilton**

The Art Appreciation Group enjoyed an interesting morning at our local gallery, the Williamson, viewing some of the work of well know local sculptor Stephen Hitchin. We all agreed that we should visit the gallery more frequently – there is a very pleasant café with a great selection of cakes, lunches etc. and there is also a selection of paintings by local artists on show at the moment. Well worth a visit!

Ed.

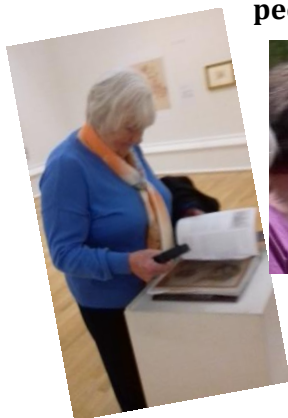


[Visit to the Walker Art Gallery to view Sketches of Leonardo Da Vinci](#)

On April 17th the group spent a rewarding morning viewing an exhibition of the wonderful Leonardo Da Vinci's drawings at the Walker Gallery. These are finely detailed sketches he used to plan his paintings and sculptures, giving us an indication of his mastery of anatomy, botany and contemporary machinery. The breadth of his talents is awe inspiring. Bernadette is so knowledgeable about painting particularly of this era and was able to point out different facets.

We also viewed some very early examples of paintings which showed how art developed before perspective was understood. Gutta pointed out different aspects and talked about early painting methods.

Many thanks to both Bernadette and Gutta for their inspiring information; we are so lucky to have two people in our group who are willing to share their enthusiasm and knowledge with us.



Ed.

Of interest to those going to the Summer School in Cumbria this year.

Mrs Davina Edwards, who came to Summer School last year, has said she will organise a minibus this year. Her address is 11, Smallwood Mews, Heswall. Wirral. CH60 6TE Tel. 0151 342 5241. Although she now lives in Heswall, she is still a member of Bromborough U3A. She said she'd be grateful if you could mention the minibus and give her contact details to U3A officers and members on your mailing list in Wirral, Cheshire, Chester or Liverpool.



Sandra Lakin

The latest newsletter has gone out direct to the 'opt in' list of U3A members. It is packed full of news from U3As, news from the Trust, including upcoming events and new subject advisers and much more.

You can view it here if you have not already signed up yourself. Your members can view all back copies and sign up to receive it direct on our website <https://u3a.org.uk/about/newsletter> and also by clicking on the link below.

U3A EMAIL NEWSLETTER *Click here to add your name to the U3A email newsletter list, or visit u3a.org.uk/email*

AND FINALLY -----

Sadly Sandra Lakin, as we all know, had to retire from being Chairman due to health reasons. She has been an outstanding Chairman, coping with the huge workload our new charitable status caused on top of the usual responsibilities. I know that she has all our good wishes for a successful outcome to her treatment and our thanks for all she has done for our U3A group. It is time now for her to concentrate on her health; she is going to keep us posted and join in when she is free.

We welcome our new Chairman, Brian Gill, whom we all know as an active member on Committee. His position as Speaker Secretary is being taken over by Alan Harding, while Marese Roberts is taking over from Jean as Business Secretary. May we wish them an enjoyable and fruitful time in their new endeavours.

As always I hope that you enjoy your Newsletter and please don't forget to let me know if you would like to see anything more included or have enjoyed an experience which you feel might be of interest to readers.

Eliane Davie - Editor



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