



June 2024 Newsletter

Chair's message



Hello Everyone! I've had quite an "interesting" start to my time as Chair, who would have thought I'd begin the term cancelling my first social meeting? But I want to thank you all for your kindness and understanding for the reason it had to be done. Carol Burkitt was a long standing and active member of our U3A before she moved to Marple to be closer to her grandchildren, so it felt right that as many members as were able could attend the funeral. Her husband Colin, a former (and much loved) Chair of our U3A was very touched by the gesture and was very pleased to see a number of our members at the funeral in Stockport (I got a big hug and a "Best of luck"!).

I did my best to ensure that everyone had been informed - an announcement at the previous meeting, an email out to my "all members" list, two notices on our Facebook page and phone calls to those members who haven't given us emails. Being a "belt and braces" person, I also went to Trinity with Palm on the 23rd to be able to speak to anyone who might have missed the message - and some people had! So, a little shoutout - if you think we might not have your contact details correct, could you have a word with Ann Gilchrist, our membership secretary, so she can check the database?

Moving on, I am looking forward to the next few months as I can see that we have a lot of interesting and exciting things to look forward to, Pam has done a magnificent job on the speaker programme, Eliane and the rest of the committee have plans for an interesting and lively social meetings programme and Williamina has some exciting trips planned. I feel as if we are getting back up and running after the hiatus brought about by Covid and that Oxton and Prenton U3A will continue to go from strength to strength. It was also heartening to have so many offers of help and support at the AGM - I thank you all from the bottom of my heart, and be sure I will be getting back to you!

Corinne Whitham

Chair

Wirral waters update – Richard Mawdsley



Cultural, Coastal and Heritage attractions make Wirral a great place to live but we all know of the decline of the port and the deprivation on one side of the peninsula. With Peel’s investment could 250 acres of brownfield Birkenhead be transformed to become as attractive and successful as other modern dock cities? A presentation by Richard Mawdsley, Director of Development

at Wirral Waters, would explain the situation so far.

Firstly, we heard a potted history of The Peel Group’s previous achievements – their portfolio is in infrastructure, property and ports. In Wirral Waters the aim is to provide a ‘mixed-use, high-density, highly sustainable project that will elevate and regenerate the area to the benefit of its existing community.’

Described as quays and villages and hubs - office and industrial space would be provided alongside the award-winning modular housing, with education and training included as an essential part of the plan. Quality and sustainability were emphasized and Richard spoke with enthusiasm about the design of the surrounding areas - the streetscapes, the recycling of original materials wherever possible, and the planting of trees and shrubs to build Pocket Parks and dockside walkways.

With accompanying images displaying everything from the huge piles of planning applications to artists impressions of sites that are now becoming recognizable in reality, from huge paintings of Glenda and Paul, visits by Princess Anne and

Shipping Ministers, to first residents Arthur and Doreen. Richard packed it all in and he could have gone on, however, our meeting was coming to an end, many of us had questions for him and a group were still gathered around even as the audience were leaving the hall. With our newly gained knowledge of Wirral Waters, I'm sure we will be giving more attention to the changes taking place around that area.



Speakers June – July 2024

6th June – Chris & Barbara Kay - The National Waterways Museum – a passage through time.

4th July – David Hearn - The great Liverpool Sculptor – George Herbert Tyson Smith

Pamela Southall

SOCIAL MEETINGS' PROGRAMME MARCH – JULY 2024

June 20th Bill Nock will speak about: “My Time as a Mayor”

July 18th Helen Renner will talk about: “Coming from the Gold Coast as a young teenager in 1948”

Eliane Davie

Summer Trips

TWELFTH NIGHT, THURSDAY, 13th JUNE 2024

The theatre tickets have now been purchased. The production starts at 2p.m. and lasts for approximately 2hours 10minutes.

The following information is IMPORTANT.

Unfortunately, due to a fall in numbers it is too expensive to hire a coach or minibus for this outing.

Therefore, you will have to make your own travel arrangements. Bus/train travel is free using your Merseytravel pass. If travelling by car a map showing parking areas is available on the theatre website.

RHS FLOWER SHOW, TATTON PARK

FRIDAY, 19th JULY, 2024

Please make your ticket payment of £28.85 for the flower show at the U3A meeting on 6th June 2024.

Payment for the coach to be made at the U3A meeting on 20th June, 2024.

The cost of the coach will be determined by numbers which is looking favourable.

LLANDUDNO TRIP

THURSDAY, 25th JULY, 2024

Payment for the coach due at the U3A meeting on 4th July, 2024.

The cost of the coach will be determined by numbers. This is a popular outing.

Contact Wil by email

trips@oxtonu3a.co.uk

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA FROM April to July 2024

We have a very good willing team and I hope there are still more members who would like to participate. It's not arduous and it is a good way of getting to know other members. Please ring me on 0151 608 6226

Joan Benton - Team Leader

6 June 2024	Barbara Baker Kathy Sullivan
20 June 2024	Eileen Slater Norah Murray
4 July 2024	Brenda George Mary Hamilton

Southport Flower Show - Discount

15-18 August 2024

Southport U3A will be celebrating the Show's 100th anniversary this year with a special show garden, a large 17 metre curved garden which depicts five period gardens linked by a path, charting the history of gardening over the last 100 years.

<https://sources.u3a.org.uk/another-big-year-for-southport-u3a-at-the-southport-flower-show>

We are invited to visit their garden and say hello.

Southport Flower Show are offering all u3a Members £10 off gate tickets if purchased before 31 July. Use the promo code 'u3a' when purchasing an any day ticket online and the cost will be £19 instead of £29.

For tickets and more information, go to www.southportflowershow.co.uk.

Group News

Nordic Walking

Each Tuesday at 10.00 a.m. we meet up outside the visitor centre in Birkenhead Park and set off for an hour's walk. If we are lucky we have glorious weather but even when it's a bit grey and damp we can still enjoy our lovely surroundings. This last month we have seen the ducklings developing and the trees coming into leaf. It's a friendly group and we walk every week and stay for a coffee. If you can't come every week, just drop in when you are able. New members welcome.



Spot the goslings?

Lunch Circle Dates

18th June 2024:

The Irby Mill

16th July 2024:

An Afternoon Tea (to be arranged)

12.45 for 1.00pm.

Sign-up sheet on table or contact Colin.

<mailto:lunch@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

Colin Stredder

Craft Group

The meeting is on the last Monday of the month 2.00 – 4.00. At Joan Benton's house

Book Group 2024

Meets on the Thursday following the first U3A meeting in the month. Two more readers would be welcomed into this book club which meets in Wallasey at Joyce Woosley's house. The Home Reader section of WBC Libraries can supply copies.

13th June at 10.30. – 12.00.

This month's book – "This Boy" by Alan Johnson

Walking Group

Friday 31 May – Bidston to Meols.

Meet at Bidston Station footbridge, leaving at 10.30 am. Led by Barbara Riley, we will be walking along the Moreton Shore to The Railway pub in Meols. The walk is approx. 4.6 miles and should take 2.5 hours.

Friday 28th June, start at Cottage Loaf 10.30 pm 5 miles
2.5 hours.

Ken will check car parking details nearer the date, as last time as long as you signed the Car park sheet in the pub before you left you were ok and not fined.

Thursday 25 July – Llandudno. We will be joining the U3A coach trip to Llandudno. Led by Tony it is 6.5 - 7 miles from the Coach Park. It involves a strenuous climb but worth it for the views. Alternatively, a tram can be taken half way or all the way if wished. Possible visit to Copper Mines near the halfway station. Walk off the Orme via Happy Valley.

Play Reading

2nd Tuesday monthly usually.

June 11th at 10.30am - 12.30 Shakespeare's "Midsummer Night's Dream". This will continue to the following meeting on July 9th.

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

Contact: <mailto:playreading@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

Bridge Group and Rummikub

2nd & 3rd Wednesday monthly in Cabin at TWPG 10.15am until 12.30pm

Next Meetings 12th and 19th June.

Bridge - Novice or experienced. Relaxed Friendly Play. New Players always welcome

Contact:- <mailto:bridge@oxtonu3a.co.uk> - or just turn up

Rummikub is held at the same time. A fun game for 2-4 players. New players welcome.

Contact:- <mailto:bridge@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

Drawing

Meets on the first Friday of each month in the Cabin unless otherwise announced.

10.00 – 12.00

7th June – meet at Lady Lever Gallery. If it's wet, in the cafe

5th July – Birkenhead Park, meet at the Visitor Centre.

New members are always welcome.

Contact: Pauline Horner.

Art Appreciation. 'Another View' - The Lady Lever Gallery



Due to industrial action and closures putting our plans for a visit to Walker Art Gallery into disarray, Bernadette organized a meeting at the Lady Lever Gallery. Many others must have made the same decision because the gallery was very busy.

We were here to see the new exhibition – 'Another View', which explores and celebrates the history of landscapes by women artists. It is spread across three rooms - From Amateur to Artist, Expanding Horizons and A New Path - starting with early depictions by female amateur artists and moving through the 19th and 20th

centuries, with works ranging from oil paintings to prints, drawings and photographs.

British landscape art is traditionally dominated by male artists and Bernadette spoke of how the social, economic and cultural values of the times affected the opportunities women had to create art, and also the way in which their artwork was seen. She quoted Virginia Woolf, saying 'I would venture to guess that Anon.....was often a woman'. It was interesting to see the timeline of art on display aligned with the women artists' growing ambition and their development of technique as they got more of a foothold in the art world. This exhibition is on till 18th August.

[Another View: Landscapes by Women Artists | National Museums Liverpool](#)

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.

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.



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.

Please give some info – a different type of card is required for someone who has a broken leg to someone who has had a major heart attack!

Also, a bit of information for sympathy cards is helpful.

marycare@oxtonu3a.co.uk

dotcare@oxtonu3a.co.uk

[A Presentation by Oxton U3A Interest Groups.](#)

Following the success of our Meeting at the end of August last year we are planning to arrange a similar meeting this year when the various active Interest Groups provide information for members. The date is not yet agreed, but it will be sometime after our Summer break, possibly as early as September.

Hopefully, each Group Leader will arrange a display giving information about their Group and will be on hand to talk to you and answer any questions about the group. Group Leaders will be contacted shortly by Tony (Group Coordinator) – why not get in first and let him have your ideas now!

There will also be an opportunity to discuss possible New Groups which we can setup.

Over the last few years we have “Lost” a number of groups eg Gardening Group, Debating Group, Philosophy, Perhaps YOU have an interest and would like to help re-start some of the “Lost” groups. If so, please let me know. Perhaps you have a hobby or interest we have not yet explored, why not start a New Group Now.

You may have an interest you would like to pursue with friends from the U3A, but are not confident enough to start a Group yourself. Help and Support is available to enable anyone to setup a Group – you have nothing to lose by discussing your ideas with me.

Please help me to develop the Interest Groups available at Oxton U3A by letting me have your thoughts and if possible by volunteering to setup a New Group.

Tony Swarbrick

groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk

And finally.....

Thanks to everyone who helped with this edition of the newsletter, to Steve Cottam for proofreading and Tony and Gwyneth for information regarding groups.

As 1st – 7th June is UK Volunteers Week – I’m sure we’d all like to thank the volunteers who help to make Oxton and Prenton U3A such an enjoyable and successful group.

As always let’s continue to stay active and stay engaged, share experiences, and cultivate our community

Kathy

