



September 2024

Newsletter

Chair's Message

Hello everyone and welcome back to our new "school year"! I hope you all enjoyed the Summer break and that you (like me) are looking forward to us all getting together again. As you know a few of our groups continued to meet throughout August and I was also fortunate to have kept in contact with a number of members who have become good friends during my time with Oxton and Prenton U3A.

We have, now, got a lot to look forward to- Pam has organised an interesting list of speakers for our Speaker Meetings, we have some activities and talks arranged for our Social Meetings up until December (more on that later), Barbara is beavering away sorting out our Christmas lunch and Williamina has plans for some exciting trips. I hope that our meeting in October showcasing our Groups and Activities will also draw in new members (remember it's a "bring a friend" event) - fingers crossed.

With regards to our Social Meetings, Eliane has given a huge amount of time and commitment to us over the years and has, I think, earned some time off for good behaviour. She has planned activities and member talks up to and including December but for January 2025 and beyond we need someone to take up the reins- could this be you? Eliane, the Committee and members would, I am sure, be happy to help.

On another issue, if we wish our very popular Lunch Group to continue, we need someone to lead and organise it. Colin has done sterling work for a number of years and has now stood down but would obviously offer help if another member came forward. I would be sorry to see the Lunch Group fold as it has brought a lot of pleasure to many of our members - who doesn't enjoy a good meal out with good company?

Although the Committee has not met officially, we have continued to work on your behalf throughout August so that our new year together gets off to a good start - onwards and upwards!



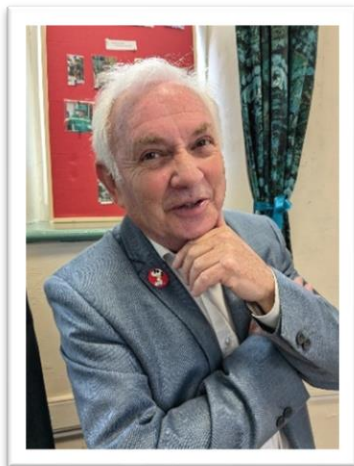
We are trying to re-establish regional and national connections which were sadly disrupted by Covid and lockdowns – hence four of us attended the recent North West Region Conference and AGM in Liverpool at the start of July. (Margaret Cullen Treasurer, Pam Southall Speaker Secretary, Carole Lapping Secretary and Corinne Whitham Chair). We did lots of networking!! I'm sure that it will be worthwhile, as we can get a lot of help and guidance

from both regional and national colleagues. I am grateful for the committee members commitment and hard work!

When I took over as Chair the email address was changed at my request from chairman@oxtonu3a.co.uk . It was intended to establish the role as gender neutral and going forward we will be refreshing our constitution to incorporate more gender neutral language. The new membership cards and information for new members leaflets will have the new email address but you might want make a note of the change on your current card in case you need to get in touch. To contact me it's now chair@oxtonu3a.co.uk Thank you!

Corinne Whitham – Chair

The great Liverpool Sculptor – George Herbert Tyson Smith



David Hearn started his talk on 'George Herbert Tyson Smith, the man who sculpted Liverpool' by giving us an Artistic Nudity Warning! But his tongue was firmly in his cheek. He went on to tell us that the Liverpool born sculptor was taught by Augustus John at the School of Architecture and Applied Art otherwise known as the 'Art Sheds' where he trained in architecture, sculpture, drawing carving, and clay moulding.

David illustrated this talk with lots of his own photos of the many works Tyson Smith executed in the Liverpool and Merseyside area. His work is everywhere in the city from stores to stations but nationwide his speciality was in war memorials with notable ones in Liverpool and Birkenhead.

David's presentation style was fun and interesting especially his questioning of our awareness of our surroundings. By the end of the meeting we were all inspired to look up more as we make our way through our cities.

From the Gold Coast to Liverpool in 1948. Helen Renner



As one of our 'Interesting Lives' social speakers we had Helen take the microphone to tell us about her life experiences – including how in 1948 she embarked on a 12-day voyage from the Gold Coast to Liverpool.

Coming from a successful merchants' family she had attended the most prestigious school in Accra and was relocating to England with her sister to attend another prestigious school – Cheltenham Ladies College. Helen suffered awful seasickness during the voyage from Ghana. On arrival at a drizzly port of Liverpool, having seen only black and white film of England, she had been amazed and disappointed with the city's dirty looking buildings and it was so cold. Her sister was ready to go back!

Helen told us about boarding at Cheltenham Ladies College and then on to training at Guys Dental Hospital where she met her husband. She was the first black woman there and one of only 3 women with 70 male students. She was also presented to the Queen.

Helen certainly packed in lots but the statement which received a gasp from the audience was when she told us her age was 91.

Walking Group



Irby and Great Orme



On 28th June our walkers met at the Cottage Loaf for a lovely walk around Irby led by Ken. He took the group around Royden Park, Arrowe Brook and Harrock Wood finishing 5.5 miles later back at the pub for lunch. At Llandudno in July our walk took us to the top of the Great Orme, led by Tony.

Llandudno and Tweed Mill Trip – organiser Williamina Edwards



Thanks to Wil for such a superbly organised day out to The Tweed Mill and Llandudno. We all had a ball!

RHS Flower Show at Tatton Park

On a scorching hot day, we arrived at Tatton ready for another great day out, expertly organised by Williamina Edwards. This outing was to the 25th anniversary of the RHS flower show. Such glorious weather and so much to enjoy. There were the inspirational garden designs, the plant village and floral marquee, flower arrangements and vegetable growing competitions, exhibitors and trade stands, artisan shopping, music, food and drink, and much more to take in. One particular floral design caught the eye of several of our group. Once seen, never forgotten! Too hot to shop? Well, some of us just sat, ate our ice creams and watched the world go by. The chat on the return journey was slightly quieter than on the way there – we were all so exhausted.



Suggestions for future trips

Saltaire Victorian Model Village, Shipley, West Yorkshire

Manchester Ship Canal

Member suggestion – The Western Approaches Museum in Liverpool. This could be combined with a 'Ferry Across the Mersey' if they are operating.

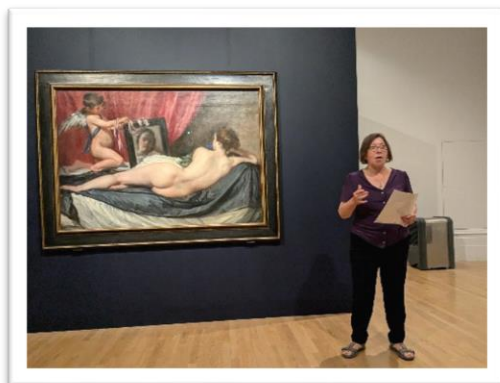
This year RIBA have announced Walking Tours of Liverpool Architecture.

A tour lasts 90 minutes and costs £10. There are separate tours of the Georgian Terraces, the Grade 1 Listed Royal Albert Docks and others.

Contact Wil – trips@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Art Appreciation

Velasquez and the Rokeby Venus



Bernadette had given the members of her group a presentation about Velasquez back at TWPG some time ago, but our visit to see this particular work was postponed due to strikes, so it was a pleasure to finally meet up and enjoy viewing the Rokeby Venus at The Walker Art Gallery. Previously hung in the house at Rokeby Park, Yorkshire where the painting gained its' popular name – it was acquired for the National Gallery in 1906 and is at the Walker on short term loan. With drapes, matching those in the painting, hung in the doorways, the masterpiece painting is the centrepiece in the room – it demands your attention. As Bernadette spoke to us about the painting, we sat just feet away. Although some brush strokes may be visible in the background – it is the realism in the painting of the flesh which amazed us.

Such a good idea to spread the National Gallery's work around and hopefully more will travel to Liverpool in future.

Drawing Group.

Birkenhead Park



Another glorious day for us to draw outside, this time at Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre. We had everything we could wish for – blue sky, flowers and trees, unusual buildings – surrounded by peaceful parkland. And our just rewards at the coffee bar.



Thanks to Pauline Horner who started the group nearly two years ago and has put so much time and effort into our meetings, but she has decided not to continue as Group Leader. If anyone is willing to be the Group Leader and keep the group going, would they please contact Tony Swarbrick.

Christmas Lunch

12.00 for lunch at 12.30 on Thursday 5th December

Tranmere Rovers Football Club Prenton Road West, Birkenhead. CH42 9PY

We are lucky to have Barbara organise our Christmas lunch at Tranmere Rovers. She has managed to negotiate a price of £34 for three courses with coffee or tea with mince pies and the service charge included. The menu is available at meetings and she is taking payment in cash or by cheque for the full amount. Once payment has been made you can choose your seat from the seating plan.

Barbara is asking for donations of suitable items for the raffle prizes.

SPEAKER MEETINGS September 2024 – April 2025

19th Sept.	The Settlement of the Welsh Colony in Patagonia.	Clare Dudman
17th Oct.	Hedgehog Awareness.	Greer Lacey – Jackson's Animal Rescue
14th Nov.	DNA (the information inside your cells).	Peter Cobley
12th Dec.	Heswall Ukelele Christmas Performance.	
16th Jan.	An Embroiderers Tale.	Tina Saunders – Needles & Sparkles
13th Feb.	Neston & Parkgate: links to the slave trade.	A. Annakin– Smith
13th Mar.	A History of Wirral Hospitals.	Gavin Hunter
10th Apr.	Jessie Gavin– Gentleman Jack of Oxton.	Rowena Beighton–Dykes
8th May.	The Olympic Games. A View from the Athlete's Village.	D. Mottram
5th Jun.	Creation of a Garden.	Michael Corfe
3rd Jul.	Elvis – That's the Way it Was	Barry Humphreys

Pamela Southall

Social Meetings

September 5th:	Quiz.
October 3rd:	'Bring a Friend' meeting.
October 31st:	Where Does Our Money Come From? Jerry Riley
November 28 th	TBA (possibly something Christmassy)

Eliane Davie

GROUP NEWS

Proposed New Group – Cryptic Crossword Solving

Tony has been offered support from another u3a to help create a Cryptic Crossword Solving Group.

If you would like to join such a group, either as a Beginner or an Experienced sign the sheet on the table at meetings, or contact

GroupCoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk

If there is sufficient Interest we would need a volunteer to Host/Lead the group – Could this be YOU?

Lunch Circle

Colin Stredder is not able to continue this popular activity, so we are looking for someone else to take it on.

If you might be interested, please contact Tony Swarbrick our Group Coordinator.

GroupCoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Art Appreciation

Held in the Sessions room in TWPG on 3rd Wednesday in month 10.30–12.00

Contact Bernadette – art@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Nordic Walking

Come and join Corinne's Nordic Walking Group every Tuesday at 10.00 am at Birkenhead Park visitor centre. We walk for an hour then have refreshments at the café.

Book Group 1

2nd Tuesday each month from 10:00 – 12:00 noon. Val Edwards runs this group and meetings take place at her home in Prenton

Contact: <mailto:book1@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

Book Group 2

Meets at 10.30. – 12.00. in Wallasey at Joyce Woosley's house on Thursday following the first U3A meeting in the month.

Next meeting is on 12th September.

The Home Reader section of WBC Libraries can supply copies.

Contact Joyce: <mailto:book2@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

Play Reading

2nd Tuesday monthly usually. Held at Eliane Davie's house, with room for one more member. Contact Eliane or Tony.

Next meeting will be on 10th September at 10.00am – 12.30

We will be having another look at 'Time and the Conways' by J.B. Priestley. An unusual take on the way the passing of time affects the family. Acts 1 and 3 take place around 1920 shortly after WW1, while Act 2 is set in the 1930s giving us a glimpse of the way events change the lives and relationships in the family. Act 3, lets us see them continue in blissful ignorance of their futures.

Priestley wrote about three 'time' plays; it was obviously a construct that he found interesting.

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

Bridge Group and Rummikub

Meeting once a month usually the 2nd Wednesday in Cabin at TWPG 10.15am until 12.30pm

Next Meeting 11th September

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:rummikub@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

Craft Group

The meeting is on the last Monday of the month 2.00 – 4.00. At Joan Benton's house.
craft@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Walking Group

Usually 3rd Friday in month. Contact – <mailto:walks@oxton.co.uk>

The September walk led by Judith Whyllie and Eliane Davie is around Hoylake and takes place on Friday 27th September. Circa 4 miles.

Meet at the Green lodge Hotel, car park, at 10.15 for 10.30 start. Lunch back at the Green Lodge, approx. 1.00pm. The walk will include Red Rocks, the slipway at Meols, the Lifeboat Station, local park, beach, and prom. Good boots or walking shoes are recommended. Sign up on table at meetings.

Drawing

Temporarily suspended.

Meets on the first Friday of each month in the Cabin unless otherwise announced.
10.00 – 12.00

Gwyneth prepares the PowerPoint presentations we see at meetings and so, in order to give her time to do this, she would be grateful if Team Leaders would send her notice of changes by lunchtime on the Friday before a meeting. Thank you.

Tea and Coffee Rota

5 Sept – 14 November 2024

5 September	Poppy Lewis Richard Lewis
19 September	Gwyneth Williams Gwyn Thomas
3 October	Julia Turner Sylvia Hunt
17 October	Greig Roberts John Roberts
31 October	Hilary Robinson Maureen Oldham
14 November	Barbara Riley Marian Jackson

I would love to hear from anyone who would like to be added to the list of volunteers. Please contact me on 0151 608 6226.

Joan Benton – Team Leader

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

Bring a Friend Day 3rd October

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

Group members will be on hand to give information and talk about the activities of the group

All members are asked to bring a Friend who may be interested in joining our U3A.

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, Corinne for photos and Eliane and Gwyneth for information regarding groups.

The newsletters are added to our Prenton Oxton and District u3a website, and thanks to Gerry there is also an updated Groups page with details and contact links - so if you want to show someone what sort of things we offer - direct them to <https://oxtonu3a.co.uk/>

One of my friends joined Oxton and Prenton u3a at last year's open day. I'm going to ask neighbours this time round. Think about who you know who might just be waiting for an invitation.

Kathy