



April 2025 Newsletter

Chair's Message

I find it hard to believe we are fast approaching our AGM for 2025 – it's certainly been an eventful year! As per our Constitution all AGM documents will go out via email so please check your email inbox (and Spam/Junk) to be sure you don't miss anything. Carole Lapping, our Business Secretary, is working hard to pull all the essential documentation together and to get it all out to you at the right time. We have a lot of flexibility with how we do most of our business – but the AGM has a set programme. It is important that as many members as possible attend the AGM, doing so demonstrates your commitment to the u3a but also ensures that anything put to the vote at an AGM is a reflection of the membership. It is not a normal drop-in Thursday meeting and both apologies and attendance need to be recorded for the minutes. If you are unable to attend, please send your apologies to Carole – secretary@oxtonu3a.co.uk.

Of course, that also brings up another issue. As per our Constitution the outgoing Chair remains on the committee in an advisory capacity for one year, which means that Alan Harding will be able to relinquish that role on April 24th at the AGM. I think, however, that I need to put my thanks in writing to him and his wife Elizabeth for the level of support that they have both given over the last twelve months. Their support has been both practical – regularly turning up early to lay out the hall and be on hand to unlock for our Thursday meetings – and theoretical, volunteering to attend extra subcommittee meetings to update our constitution or to look at the u3a Beacon communication/management system. So, thank you to them both for being there when, frankly, things got a bit tough.

With the warmer weather coming up we have plenty to look forward to, I know Wil has some interesting trips out for us all. And I'm starting to think that I just might put away some of the winter woollies – or is it too soon for that?

Kind Regards to You All

Corinne

A History of Wirral's Hospitals

Gavin Hunter

Probably all of our members have used the services of local hospitals at some time and so it wasn't surprising when a large audience attended Gavin's well illustrated presentation.



Early places he mentioned included two workhouses – Clatterbridge and St Catherine's which later evolved into hospitals, but others were sanitoriums, isolation hospitals. Sometimes these were nothing more than a couple of wards and an office, or a row of wooden huts.

We heard how the coastal geography of Wirral made it ideal for patients to

recuperate. The War Office transformed civilian hospitals and large buildings for the treatment and convalescence of those hurt in warfare. Hospitals were built for sick Liverpool children, designed to allow patients to have all-weather access to open air.

The social reforms after the war included the development of the NHS and the improvement of health care locally. Some of the hospitals were repurposed or closed and others were developed and rebuilt, and Gavin's presentation ended with pictures of the Wirral hospitals as we know them today.



New Brighton

Monthly walking group

Just look at the sky in the photos and you can see that Ken and the group had great walking weather in New Brighton at the end of March. We met at the station and keeping the seafront on our right we walked through Harrison Park and on to the Derby Pool for a coffee with beautiful views. We returned along King's Parade to Marine Point for lunch and/or shopping. Unusually for a coastal walk – it was wind free, and we thanked Ken for the walk and the weather!



Art Appreciation

Bernadette took us to the Walker Art Gallery where she had arranged a tour for the group. It began with our guides Steph and Emma telling us how the gallery was built during the 1870s by Andrew Barclay Walker, a brewer. In 1948 it received the famous collection of art owned by William Roscoe and with The John Moores exhibitions, beginning in 1957, the Gallery acquired many important modern British paintings.

From there we were taken for an enjoyable tour of our guides' choices of the art on display - starting with previous John Moores Competition winners - It took in a swimming pool painted by David Hockney, 'An Interior at Paddington' by Lucien Freud and a room full of Graham Crowley's Payne's grey and Cadmium yellow signature style paintings. We examined 'The Death of Beatrice' by Dante Gabriel Rossetti with explanations of the meanings hidden in the painting. We saw Impressionists including Monet and Degas and female artists being represented by Liverpool born artist Mary McCrossan before finally ending with Turner.

Guides can help visitors get a great deal out of a gallery visit and their choices and descriptions on this tour held our attention throughout this diverse and interesting collection.



***** SALTAIRE *****

Thursday 3rd April

Coach is leaving TPGC at
9.00am

Bodnant Gardens – Thursday 15th May

Coach approx. £14.00 Entrance £18.00

National Trust members – free entrance.

Chirk Castle and Shrewsbury – Thursday 26 June

Coach approx. £17.00 Castle entrance £10.00

National Trust members – free entrance.

CONTACTING COMMITTEE MEMBERS

There seems to have been some confusion amongst members as to how they should make contact with committee members and key individuals re u3a matters and also what they should expect to receive.

For avoidance of doubt the following are the official email addresses for the Committee

chair@oxtonu3a.co.uk
secretary@oxtonu3a.co.uk
treasurer@oxtonu3a.co.uk
membership@oxtonu3a.co.uk
speakersecretary@oxtonu3a.co.uk
groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk
walks@oxtonu3a.co.uk

None of the Committee members use personal email addresses for u3a business with the exception of Ken Jackson whose u3a 'walks' address bounces his emails to his personal email address. On occasion Ken will use his personal email address to make contact with individuals regarding upcoming walks, although his preference is to use WhatsApp.

The contact addresses for information about condolence/get well cards are

Dot@oxtonu3a.co.uk
Mary@oxtonu3a.co.uk

These addresses are for you to send the appropriate information for Dot Mathews or Mary Hamilton to action, they are not "live" addresses and you will not receive a response from either of them.

Many Thanks
Corinne (Chair).

GROUP NEWS

Art Appreciation

Held in the Session room in TWPG. 3rd Wednesday each month. 10am for 10.15 start. Contact Bernadette – <mailto:art@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

Natter and Read

Meets at 10.30. – 12.00. in Wallasey at Joyce Woosley's home near Wallasey Town Hall on Thursday following the first u3a meeting in the month. Spaces available. All books provided by the Library Service.

Next month's meeting: 17th April. Contact Joyce: <mailto:book2@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

Book Group 1

Meets in Oxton at Val Edward's house on the second Tuesday in the month. Full at the moment. Contact: book1@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Craft Group

The meeting is on the last Monday of the month. Meeting 28th April. 2.00 – 4.00. At Joan Benton's house. Contact: craft@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Lunch Group

Our lunch group hosted by Joan Benton is held monthly at the Refreshment Rooms. Numbers are limited so watch out at TWPG meetings for the signup sheet. This has proved to be a popular event so please let Joan know if you are not going to be attending once you have signed up. It is held on the third Wednesday in the month at 12:45 for 1:00pm. 6th April

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. All year round.

Play Reading

2nd Tuesday monthly usually. Held at Eliane Davie's house. Full at the moment. Finishing second part of 'Waiting in the Wings' by Noel Coward 10.00am – 12.30. Next meeting: 8th April. Contact Eliane: mailto:playreading@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Bridge Group and Rummikub

Bill Nock is the leader with Tony on hand to teach bridge to new members. Meets in the cabin at TWPG fortnightly from 2nd April at 10.00am

Walking Group

Usually 3rd Friday in month. <mailto:walks@oxtonu3a.co.uk>
Information and Sign-up sheet available in meetings. Next walk is 4th April, meeting at West Kirby Station at 10.30am.

SPEAKER MEETINGS – July 2025

- 10th Apr. [Jessie Gavin– Gentleman Jack of Oxton.](#) Rowena Beighton–Dykes
8th May. [The Olympic Games – A View from the Athlete Village.](#) D. Mottram
5th Jun. [Creation of a Garden.](#) Michael Corfe
3rd Jul. [Elvis – That's the Way it Was](#) Barry Humphreys

[Pamela Southall](#)

Tea and Coffee Rota

10 April	Sylvia Hunt Norah Murray
24 April	Mary Hamilton Joan Beedles
8 May	Ellen Wilson Dorothy Matthews
22 May	Hilary Robinson Maureen Oldham
5 June	Greig Roberts John Roberts
19 June	Hazel Stoll Eileen Slater

Would you like to help out and get to know more members? Please contact Joan on 0151 608 6226 or 07568563329

Joan Benton

WANTED

We desperately need a new trolley to transport our speaker from the cupboard to the front of the hall. Our current trolley has given us good service but now the rubber on the wheels has perished and without careful handling we risk carving grooves into the newly laid floor. If anyone has a trolley of a similar size (no bigger as we would struggle to fit it in the cupboard) that they would be happy to re home please get in touch with Corinne via email chair@oxtonu3a.co.uk Many thanks.

Care of members

If you know of any member who is unwell, in hospital or in need of a 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.

mary@oxtonu3a.co.uk

dot@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Thursday, 24 April 2025

NOTIFICATION OF THE AGM WILL BE SENT OUT BY EMAIL ONLY.
BE SURE TO CHECK YOUR EMAIL ACCOUNT OR ASK A FRIEND OR
RELATIVE

In the following week THE AGENDA and other Important Documents will be ALSO sent by email.

Only fully paid-up Members can vote.

Members must bring their white membership cards with them and hold them up whilst voting to confirm their eligibility.

Notification of the Annual General Meeting (AGM) of Oxton & Prenton u3a (Registered Charity No. 1179657)

Venue: Palm Grove with Trinity Church – Thursday 24th April 2025
at 10:30 a.m.

Do Not Forget to Bring Your Membership Card

All Members of Oxton & Prenton u3a are entitled to attend and cast their votes at the Meeting with a show of hands holding their current white Membership Card.

Nomination forms can be obtained electronically from the Secretary.

Items to be added to the Agenda from Members must reach the Secretary by Friday the 18th April 2025 to be included.

Email: Carole – secretary@oxtonu3a.co.uk

The AGM Agenda will include:

- Raising matters; Executive Committee Report; voting on resolutions, and nominating new Executive & Committee members. Voting: Only paid-up members with the current white 2024–25 Membership Card can vote.
- The main resolution under consideration is a Constitution Review.
- The current Constitution is being reviewed and compared to the Model Constitution for potential adoption.

For any further questions or information, please email Carole