



April 2026

## Chair's Message



Hello Everyone

It's lovely to see the warmer sunnier weather arriving with Spring - it seems to have been a long Winter! But the Spring means extra work for me and the rest of the committee as we get ready for our AGM - which this year will be on Thursday 23rd April. Last year we had a lot of documents to share with you, and I'm sure I'm not alone when I express my gratitude to Carole our Business Secretary for not only pulling everything together but also giving such a clear explanation for them. This year should be a little simpler but keep an eye on your inboxes (following a suggestion from the floor we will also be putting hard copies on the Notice Board).

I hope you will take the time to join us for the AGM, it is an important and very necessary date in our calendar - and, yes, we will be supplying

refreshments! This seemed to go down well last year and provided an opportunity for us all to have a bit of a catch up and a natter.

One of the documents you should expect is our Annual Report, which will give you an overview of activity in the last year, but for now enjoy your Newsletter - always a fun and interesting read, my thanks to Kathy for yet another excellent production. Newer members may have missed earlier Newsletters, previous copies are posted on our website if you wish to see them.

My thanks and those of the committee to you all for your support and friendship.

Kind Regards

Corinne

## Brighton Bombing

## Barry Cave



Retired police officer Barry Cave delivered a compelling and thoroughly engaging talk on the Brighton Bombing at our recent speaker meeting. From the moment he began, the audience was captivated by his insider's perspective on one of the most significant criminal investigations of its time.

Barry began his talk by telling us his about his own background in theatre before he decided he would need to get a job with a pension - so he joined the Police.

He then reminded us of the story of the bombing as seen in the media. Barry, of course, knew the background stories that weren't reported. He walked us through the intricate intelligence work that underpinned the case, explaining how small clues, careful detective work and coordinated effort gradually revealed the truth. His calm, thoughtful storytelling made a complex investigation easy to follow, while still conveying the tension and urgency of the moment.

It was a rare opportunity to hear the story behind the story, and judging by the reactions of members seated by me, it left them both informed and deeply impressed.

\*\*\*\*\*

## Chagall - Love War and Exile

## Art Appreciation

Bernadette led us this month into the colourful, dream-like world of Marc Chagall, an artist whose life and work were shaped by love, memory, folklore, and the upheavals of the 20th century.

We saw a style unmistakably unique with whimsical landscapes and vivid colours. He included both Jewish and Christian imagery and blended elements of scenes from his youth in the Belarus village of Vitebsk in his paintings. Along with likenesses of himself and his wife, Bella, are fantastical characters, including animals playing musical instruments, circus performers, floating figures and angels. All contributing to the art he hoped would carry a universal message of love.

As always there were relevant art books to pass around and Bernadette shared a selection of his works, sparking thoughtful questions and discussions. Another very enjoyable meeting

Mark Birch entertains.



A huge "thank you" to Alan and Elizabeth for inviting Mark Birch to our Social Meeting. Mark brought with him a wonderful selection of songs – a mix of well-loved favourites for a good sing-along. His easy charm and lively performance style meant there were plenty of opportunities for members to join in, clap along and share the joy of live music together.

\*\*\*\*\*

Play Reading Group with Eliane Davie

Play Reading Meeting for April is on April 14th at 10am when we will be looking at Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's "The Hound of the Baskervilles" adapted for the stage by F. Andrew Leslie.

There is a cast of 9, all strong characters, and the action takes place mostly at Baskerville Hall, Dartmoor, Devon after a short scene in Sherlock Holmes' study, 221 Baker St., London. Action takes place in late spring 1889. I think that we'll have fun reading about the curse of the Baskerville family and the killer hound that stalks them  
*Eliane*

## Tea and Coffee Rota

Our thanks go to Linda and Eileen this week, and everyone else on Joan's rota who has stepped up and volunteered. If other members would like to help out and lighten the load, please contact Joan Benton on 0151 608 6226 or 07568563329. It's a great way to meet more members.



9 April 2026	Gwyneth Williams Gwyn Thomas
23 April 2026	Hilary Robinson Maureen Oldham
7 May 2026	Ann Greenhalgh Norma Finlayson
21 May 2026	Aileen Lawless Joan Beedles
4 June 2026	Karen Little Hazel Stoll

\*\*\*\*\*

### Speaker Meetings

Arranged by Pam Southall

9 <sup>th</sup> Apr	Solo Walk across Africa	Fran Sandham
7 <sup>th</sup> May	Peru in the Footsteps of the Incas	Dr. David Mottram
4 <sup>th</sup> Jun	The Liverpool Tobacco Industry 1642-2007	Robert S. Jones
2 <sup>nd</sup> Jul	'Operation Fish' - saving Britain's Gold from the Nazis	B Nevin

Lunch with Joan.

The Refreshment Rooms. March



\*\*\*\*\*

## GROUPS

**Art Appreciation** – Held in the Session room in TWPG. 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday each month. Also, Gallery visits. Next meeting is 15<sup>th</sup> April – an informal meetup at The Williamson Gallery but Bernadette will not be present.

Contact Bernadette – <mailto:art@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

**Near and Far with your Bus Pass** – Thursday 30<sup>th</sup> April – Mersey Cruise.

10.15 am – Meet at the Bus Station stand 10 for the bus to Seacombe. 11.20 Ferry – Seacombe to Liverpool. Return ferry 4.00pm. Three hours in Liverpool for museums, shops and lunch etc. Attractions of your own choice can be visited at your own pace. More information including meet up times is on the signup sheet and will be emailed out to those taking part. All transport is free with a travel pass.

### **Natter and Read**

Meet 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 are provided by the Library Service.

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

## Lunch Group

Our lunch group hosted by Joan Benton is held monthly at the Refreshment Rooms. It is held on the third Wednesday in the month at 12:45 for 1:00pm. Numbers are limited so watch out at TWPG meetings for the signup sheet.

## Walking Group

Usually 3rd Friday in month. <mailto:walks@oxtonu3a.co.uk>  
Information and Sign-up sheet available in meetings. The Liverpool Three Parks has been postponed till 16<sup>th</sup> April. Please note – this is a Thursday.

## 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 – but now the weather is warming up it is an ideal time of year to join.

## 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 on Wed. at 10.00am. Next meeting 1<sup>st</sup> April

## Book Group 1

Meets in Oxtun at Val Edward's house on the second Tuesday in the month. Full at the moment. Contact: [book1@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:book1@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

## Craft Group

Meets on the last Monday of the month. 2.00 – 4.00. At Joan Benton's house. Full at the moment, but names can be added to a reserve list.  
Contact: [craft@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:craft@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

## Play Reading

*Thanks to Eliane for the notes about her group meeting. Get in touch with her if you would like to join and she will put your name on the reserve list.*

2nd Tuesday monthly usually. Meeting: 10.00am – 12.30. Held at Eliane Davie's house.

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

\*\*\*\*\*

## Care of members

Eve Felton has agreed to be the point of contact so if you know of any member in need of a kind word please contact

[committeemember@oxtonu3a.co.uk](mailto:committeemember@oxtonu3a.co.uk)

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.

*Thanks to Steve Cottam for proofreading and to Corinne and Aileen for photographs.*

If you think you have anything u3a related to be included in the newsletter please send it to me.

<mailto:newsletter@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

*Kathy*