

OXTON, PRENTON & DISTRICT U3A MONTHLY NEWSLETTER MARCH 2015



CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

I wrote to you all about a month ago inviting you to a coffee morning on Tuesday 3rd March to learn about the work that the committee does. I explained that we will need to replace most of the existing committee members in the next couple of years in order to sustain our U3A group. At the time of writing less than a handful of members have indicated their intention of attending this session. I would urge you all to please come along and get involved; after all it is your U3A. If you plan to come please let me know so that we can book an appropriate size room and organise the catering.

Colin Burkitt - Chairman

!!!! LUNCHEON CIRCLE !!!!

The Lunch Circle will be meeting on Tuesday 17th March at The Queens, Oxton Road, Birkenhead 12-00 for 12-30. Hope to see you there.

WEBSITE

Our new website is now up and running and looks absolutely superb and very professional. Please visit the new website, you will find it easier to navigate, full of information about upcoming events, meetings and groups. All the essential and bang up to date information that you need is there for you to access easily and quickly. There is a technical issue that you need to be aware of :-

- If our old website has been 'bookmarked' or 'saved as a favourite' on your computer you may find that the old website is displayed when you select it. You need to delete the bookmark or favourite selection. Go to your browser and put in our website address www.oxtonu3a.co.uk. Our new website homepage should then be displayed, you can then bookmark this page or save it to favourites.

Thank you so much to Sandra Lakin, our webmaster, editor of this newsletter and vice chairman for the hours of hard work that she has put in to this project. Please let her have any feedback about the website or the newsletter at newsletter@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Colin Burkitt, Chairman

FORTHCOMING EVENTS – Full booking details available at meetings - see your social organisers at the back of the hall, or e-mail barbara@oxtonu3a.co.uk

- 5th March 5-30 pm - Cathedral Tower Twilight Visit - meet at Anglican Cathedral
- 24th March 7-30 pm - Midsummer Night's Dream at Liverpool Everyman
Booking now open
- 23rd April 7-30 pm - Gigi directed by Eliane Davie at The Little Theatre, Birkenhead . *****NEW**
Booking now open
- 23rd April 10-30 am - A guided walk around the Albert Dock led by Colin Stredder *****NEW**
With particular emphasis on the maritime history.
- 7th May 2015 - Llanberis Lake Railway & Electric Mountain ****NEW**
- 20th May 2-30 pm - Barnum at Liverpool Empire
Booking now open
- 4th June 2015 - Visit to Tatton Park. *****NEW**
- 23rd July 2.30 pm - Curious Incident of the dog in the Night-time at Liverpool Empire ****NEW**
Booking open 5th March

**Full booking details available at meetings
See your social organisers**

MARCH WALK

Mike Benton will be leading this six mile walk. We meet at 10-15 am at Wirral Country Park, Neston (next to Neston Cricket Club). It will be via the Wirral Way and footpaths to Ness Gardens for a coffee stop. Down Denhall Lane to the River Dee, back to Parkgate along the coast for lunch at The Old Quay, then back to start.

MEETINGS AND SPEAKERS

Thursday 5th March 10-00 am – Speaker Jutta Hesketh
Suspension Bridges & Isambard Kingdom Brunel

Thursday 19th March 10-00 am – Speaker Arthur Maltby
The Life & Strange Death of Christopher Marlowe

GET WELL SOON



Unfortunately Hilary Sanders, our Secretary, has recently suffered a fall, so on behalf of us all, may I take this opportunity to send her all our very best wishes and hope that she is soon back on her feet (literally) ! Hope to see you soon Hilary XXX

If you know of any of our members who are ill or unable to come to our meetings, please let Carol Burkitt or Pauline Pennington know.

CHAIRMAN'S SPECIAL MEETING TUESDAY 3rd MARCH 10-30 am

TWPG Portacabin at the rear of the car park.

We are asking ALL members to consider coming along to the above meeting that Colin has called. This meeting is about encouraging you all to consider joining our committee. Now before you all groan or shake your heads, can I just say there IS something in it for you. Well at the very least if you come along you will get free coffee and cakes !!

Seriously though there are or rather were U3A Groups not far from Oxton which despite having plenty of members, and numerous special interest Groups, have had to close because they were unable to form a Committee. I really don't want this to happen to our Oxton U3A . So I would like to share my Committee experience with you.

We are all encouraged to join the special interest Groups to fulfil the aim of U3A and continue our journey of learning and discovery throughout our lives. Well I want to suggest to you that you can do as much learning by joining our Committee. When a few years ago whilst out with the walking Group, I was asked by our then Chairman Ann if I would consider joining the Committee and editing our newsletter, I was in a position where I was quite dissatisfied with retirement, the first few years were a novelty but at some point boredom had set in. So I thought why not ? I didn't really want to join the committee but I fancied doing something new. It involved using a programme called publisher and although I could use a computer I certainly hadn't a clue about editing using publisher. So it was with a lot of trepidation that I set to and a few weeks later thanks to the help and input of lots of our members, my first edition was published. Wow I can so remember holding the first issue and feeling very satisfied. So the newsletter went on to be a twice yearly publication. The newsletter is now a monthly issue and although it is now only available by e-mail due to the high printing costs.

Then a year or so ago our Webmaster relinquished his role and Colin guided me into taking it over. Now this really was a step too far, I knew absolutely nothing, zero, zilch about websites except how to view them but with Colin's help I maintained our old website and have now been able to launch our ALL NEW website which I hope you will all access if only once. (www.oxtonu3a.co.uk)

It has all been such an exciting process which only happened because I joined the Committee. Along the way Chris and I have made numerous new really good friends and I can't tell you how glad I am that I took that first step.

Every member of our Committee has a role to fulfil, and we really are a friendly crew. So give it some thought and then why not give it a go?

Sandra Lakin

The Garstang Museum of Archaeology

John Garstang was one of the foremost archaeologists of the early 20th century, excavating in Egypt and the Middle East.

Named after him, the University of Liverpool's Garstang Museum of Archaeology houses a unique collection of artefacts from around the ancient world.

Following renovation and relocation to new premises the Museum is open to the public every Wednesday from 10am- 4pm.

After visiting the Victoria Museum in the morning, our group walked to the Garstang, no more than 10 minutes away in Abercromby Square, where we were welcomed by one of the young curators, Andrew Frith, who took us round the four rooms explaining some of the various artefacts collected by John Garstang.



All is clearly laid out, some extremely precious and rare exhibits can be seen, that had been excavated over 100 years ago. The progression in the gallery was well organised and Andrew's explanation of some exhibits was interesting and educational.

We were given time to look around by ourselves before moving on to the next room. The last room contained a large sarcophagus with pictorial writing around its side. Daniel, another curator, was able to read the story attached to the mummy that

was once contained in the sarcophagus.



There were examples of jewellery, beautiful early glass artefacts, each with a story attached to it which Andrew, with great enthusiasm, related to us.



We hope that the curators will come to our U3A in the near future to talk about John Garstang himself and the Museum, which is also running workshops for schools and adults.

Jutta Hesketh

NETWORK NEWS

PHILOSOPHY DAY 11-00 am – 15-30 pm 24th February 2015 Crewe Arms Hotel

Join one of our most valued and respected members, Arthur Maltby (who runs the Philosophy Network Group on the Wirral), for a fascinating day designed for existing, new or potential Group Leaders – and anyone else interested in Philosophy.

Following an Introductory Session, there will be two workshop sessions discussing:

How to get People Involved: How to deal with Abstract Subjects such as Metaphysics
Coffee will be served from 1030 and there is a comprehensive bar menu available at lunchtime

Please apply via the NW website: www.u3asites.org.uk/northwest

For further details about the subject matter, please contact
Arthur: 0151 342 5775; arthur94@btinternet.com

The Crewe Arms Hotel is opposite Crewe Station. It is easily accessible from the M6 and parking is free but it is essential that you register your car at Reception

AN OPPORTUNITY TO LEARN IN THE INSPIRING SETTING OF THE LAKE DISTRICT



The North West Regional U3A committee have organised another summer school for 2015. These are always very popular, great fun and in a beautiful part of the country. Newton Rigg College is located close to J40 off the M6 and less than five minutes drive from Penrith Railway Station. The campus, which is just ten minutes from Ullswater, has modern facilities, student en-suite rooms with Wi-Fi access. Food is locally sourced and prepared on the premises. A large room is available for meeting and socialising. There will be entertainment on the second evening and a “Gala Dinner” on the third and final evening.

The classes are as follows:

Architecture Explored; Egyptology (An introduction into Ancient Egypt); Creative Writing;
Geology (Lakeland Ice and Fire); Introduction to Digital Photography;
Introduction to Medieval Archaeology; Introduction to Philosophy; Japanese Encounters

Costs:

Full Board Residential Delegates: £300 but bookings confirmed with £50 deposit by
31 March 2015 will qualify for an Early Bird Discount of £40; the balance of £210
due by 31 May 2015

Non-Residential Day Delegate £150; £130 with Early Bird Discount; as above, £50
deposit by 31 March 2015 with the balance of £80 due by 31 May 2015

Anyone who misses the Early Bird discount should send full payment by 31 May
2015

Additional information can be found on the NW website: www.u3asites.org.uk/north-west

See a full list of all our special interest groups on our website www.oxtonu3a.co.uk

LATEST GROUP NEWS

NEW ART GROUP

Art Group has now started and meets on 4th Tuesday in the month please see Corinne if you wish to attend.

FILM & DVD GROUP

March 12th – Fried Green Tomatoes at The Whistle Stop Cafe at the home of Margaret Brown at 2-00 pm.

BASIC KNOW YOUR CAMERA.

Start date to be announced. Would all members who have expressed an interest please contact Brenda George at the next meeting or e-mail brenda@oxtonu3a.co.uk

MUSIC GROUP PROGRAMME

March 4th Wynn Houghton - Tchaikovsky Eugene Onegin (1)

April 1st “ “ - Tchaikovsky Eugene Onegin (2)

6th May Frank Denye - Members request

3RD JUNE Paul Cullen - Nielson & Sibelius

JULY AND AUGUST NO MEETING

GARDENING GROUP PROGRAMME

March 11th - Gordale Garden Centre at 11-00 am. Talk on planting pots & troughs

April - time and date to be arranged

May 27th - meet at member's garden

June 4th - Tatton Park

July - meeting at local allotment

HISTORY OF ART

The next six monthly meetings for the above Group are to be held on Wednesday mornings at 10.30 am and are on the following dates;

March 18th Visit to the Lady Lever Art Gallery

April 15th Rembrandt (Bernadette)

May 11th Visit to Liverpool Tate Gallery Leonora Carrington (Lancs/Mexico) meet 10-30am

May 20th Rembrandt's The Nightwatch (Bernadette)

June 17th Visit to Sudley House Liverpool

PLEASE CHECK ON THE NOTICE BOARD SHOULD THERE BE ANY CHANGES

MEDITATION

March 6th Next meeting 10-00 is – 12-00 noon

PSYCHOLOGY

March 13TH Transpersonal Psychology and the Problem of Consciousness 10-00 – 12-00

LOCAL HISTORY

March 16th Merseyside Past and Present, speaker Cledwyn Thomas. 2-00 – 4-00 pm

COMPARATIVE BELIEFS

Tuesday March 16th the above group will be having a talk on Buddhism, anyone who would like to attend as a one off visit please contact Val Noble

There are still groups who would like more members

New Book Group, Scrabble, Lunch Circle, Astronomy, Comparative Beliefs. Any ideas for short or taster courses will be welcomed. Please contact brenda@oxtonu3a.co.uk

LOCAL NEWS

Walking Football

A football coaching company on the Wirral called Shootin Boots is starting a FREE walking football session in partnership with Age UK for over 50's. They would like new people to join them.

Contact Matthew Edwards, email: matt@shootin-boots.co.uk

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