



December Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

It was with great sadness that we heard that a much valued member, Sandra Lakin had passed away peacefully on the evening of October 29th. As we knew she had been ill for some time and had born her illness with considerable courage and optimism.



Many of us attended her Memorial Service on November 17th, where we heard some wonderful reflections on her life. We all have our own memories of her, some stretching over years, some more recent. She was a popular and active member of our U3A and will be remembered by all who knew her, with great affection.

***** Alan Harding

Words That Are Their Own Opposites: Stumble or Tumble into the mirror world of cononyms.

Here is an ambiguous sentence for you "Because of the agency's oversight, the corporations behaviour was sanctioned."

Does that mean, "Because the agency oversaw the company's behaviour, they imposed a penalty for some transgression."?

Or does it mean, "Because the agency was inattentive, they overlooked the misbehaviour and gave it their approval by default?"

We have stumbled into the mirror world of cononyms, words that are their own antonyms.

1. Sanction (Via French, from Latin sanctio (n-), from sancire 'ratify') can mean give official permission or approval for "an action" or conversely, "impose a penalty on."
2. Oversight is the noun form of two verbs with contrary meanings, "oversee" and "overlook".

Oversee, from Old English oferseon ("look at from above") means "supervise" (Medieval Latin for the same thing: super-, "over" plus voider, "to see.") Overlook usually means the opposite: "to fail to see or observe; to pass over without noticing; to disregard, ignore".

3. Left can mean either remaining or departed. If the gentlemen have withdrawn to the drawing room after dinner cigars, who is left? (The gentlemen have left and the ladies are left.)

4. Dust, along with the next two words, is a noun turned into a verb meaning either to add or to remove the thing in question. Only the context will tell you which it is. When you dust are you applying dust or removing it? It depends whether you are dusting the crops or the furniture.

5. Seed can either go either way. If you seed the lawn you add seeds, but if you seed a tomato you remove them.

If you find this interesting I have 20 further examples.

Alan Harding – Chairman

BRIAN'S MUSINGS



When I was a child, living through the seemingly interminable years of the war, I hoped that one day we would win and there would be peace and stability and life would return to 'normal'. I now know better! It has been said that the only sure and certain factor on which we can rely is uncertainty and in these uncertain time we may well be tempted to subscribe to this notion. But things are not always as they seem.



The 'grand narratives' by which we live and by which social groups are bound together are no longer entirely fit for purpose. It is difficult to have faith either in them or the people who uphold them. The stories told us by politicians, scientists, theologians, academics and financiers are questionable and we are wise to look for ulterior motives.

Human Beings are tribal by nature and in common with other animals living in collective groups, when insecure and under threat we tend to gather together and locate ourselves on secure ground for protection. Living on an island tends to support this deluded state. We reinforce our tribal identity and take care to identify the enemy. There has to be an enemy. Historically it has always been someone who is 'different' and our appointed leaders (those with strong voices) soon point them out to us if we have not located them for ourselves.

But things are very different now. The enemy is global. It is the way we live collectively, the way we use our shared and limited planetary resources. Historically we have been encouraged to believe that we have special rights and privileges; a dubious concept. We certainly have responsibilities. In the past, when raw materials and labour were in short supply one usually took them from someone else. Now it is gradually becoming increasingly clear that such strategies are no longer viable; not

because they are morally wrong – that has never prevented an invasion – but because they no longer work. Global problems demand global solutions.

Here science most certainly can help. It shows us, beyond all doubt, that there would be no creation, no matter, without the innate relatedness of sub-atomic particles. The universe is held together by an infinite complexity of relationships at every level. There is competition and conflict of course but we forget to look beyond all the stress and tension that this generates to the inbuilt necessity for balance and harmony. Where these are ignored or over- ridden there can only be chaos as the system strives to re-establish itself at a more primitive level.

At this time of year, and in this part of the planet, if we were still at all interested in living in harmony within our ecology, we would be living quietly, with limited resources whilst reinforcing our relationships by sharing the meaningful stories that have best supported us over the past year. I am fortunate to have lived in a community in which this actually happened but it may well be that our economy will perforce bring us to this point anyway.

I remember as a boy, sitting in the collective air-raid shelter in the middle of the night, together with all our neighbours and singing the songs that we all knew; ‘Just a Song at Twilight’ was my favourite. It is one of my best memories. Sometimes we need a terrible shock to awaken us to other ways of being. Our neighbours now are all those who are suffering the effects of our years of collective ignorance, exploitation and planetary mismanagement. Suffering is our common cause, our blind stupidity the common enemy.

Awakening to a realisation of the relatedness of everything is our common solution or so it seems to me. Some call it ‘love’.

Brian Gill

Regarding ‘The Watermill’ a poem by Bishop Heber which Alan featured in his Chairman’s piece last month.....

“Interesting to read the poem by Bishop Heber. He has connections with South Cheshire and a school in Malpas is named after him. I think he was vicar of nearby Bunbury for a time. He was involved in missionary work and I have a feeling that this contributed to his relatively early death. There is also a memorial plaque to him in Wrexham, under a disused railway bridge.

Our generation probably remembers singing his hymn "Holy, Holy, Holy, Lord God Almighty" and the slightly less politically correct "From Greenland's icy Mountains". He was an important figure in the church of the early 19th century.

Thanks for all the other news of our activities.”

Steve Cottam



Membership fees were due at the end of October; if you haven't yet paid please do so as soon as possible. Cheques for £15 per person, payable to "Oxton & Prenton U3A" please.

A Sad Loss to her Friends & our U3A

It was with great sadness that we heard that our friend and member, Sandra Lakin, had passed away on October 29th. She was an early and active member of our Group, who was our Chairman at the time her cancer was diagnosed and had just seen the Committee through a really difficult time of changes in the organisation. Sandra had already served as Treasurer before Ken and started the Newsletter before I took it over in 2016.

Her upbeat attitude and courage throughout her long illness were amazing; she fought hard to give herself more time to be with her beloved husband Chris and family. Until her last few months, Sandra was still proof reading the newsletter for me and producing the Powerpoint for the monthly meetings, at the same time as she was coping with arduous treatments and caring for Chris, who had been diagnosed with dementia at the same time as her own diagnosis for cancer.



She will be remembered with great affection by those who knew her; she was clever, funny, kind, capable and great company. Our hearts go out to her family at this time of their loss.

Ed.

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA OCTOBER TO 8TH DECEMBER 2022

- | | |
|--------------------------------|-----------------------|
| 8th December | Barbara Riley |
| | Marion Jackson |

TEA AND COFFEE ROTA 5TH JANUARY to 30th MARCH 2023

Please contact Joan Benton on 0151 608 6226 if you would like to change your duty date.

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|-------------------------------|----------------------|
| 5th January | Eileen Slater |
| | Joan Beedles |

19 th January	Dot Mathews
	Ellen Wilson
2 nd February	Lorraine Malyj
	Wendy Devonald
16 th February	Will Edwards
	Judith Wylie
2 nd March	Poppy Lewis
	Sue Berry
16 th March	Hilary Robinson
	Maureen Oldham
30 th March	Barbara Baker
	Kathy Sullivan
13 th April	Joyce Roberts
	Jean Skillicorn
	Beryl Davies



(so far) 2022 Speakers - 23

8th December 2022: History of Ness Gardens.



2023

19th January 2023: Ray O'Brien: 'A Magical Mystery Tour.'

16th February 2023: Joanna Williams: 'The Great Miss Lydia Becker; a Suffragette, Scientist and a Trailblazer!'

16th March 2023: Roger Devonside: 'Devil Wing Walker'

13th April 2023: David Hearn: 'Wirral Peninsula'

11th May 2023: Rob Dolphin: 'Friends of Flaybrick'



8th June 2023: Pauline Roberts: Travel, holidays

Lunch Group Dates

Colin Shredder



No Lunch Group in December

Christmas Dinner December 15th

2023

17 th January 2023	Caernarvon Castle, BIRKENHEAD. CH43 2JZ.
21 st February 2023	Travellers Rest, 169 Mount Road. Bebington.
21 st March 2023	The Basset Hound, 107 Barnston Road, Thingwall.CH61 1AS
18 th April 2023	The Kings Arm, Kings Lane, Bebington. CH63 8NR.Pest
16 th May 2023	Pesto, 50 Dibbinsdale Road, Bromborough. CH63 0HJ.
20 th June 2023	Three Stags, Church Road, Bebington. CH63 3EA.
18 th July 2023	AFTERNOON TEA. Venue to be arranged.

2022-23 Social meetings

December 22nd DVD: Reflections of Liverpool and Wirral.

2023

January 5th Colin's Quiz

February 2nd DVD: Wirral Memories – 1960s and 70s.

March 2nd Colin's Quiz

March 30th DVD: Cammell Laird's Old Ships and Hard Ships.

April 27th Colin's Quiz

May 25th DVD: Liners and Launches.



Colin Stredder



Group News

A Book and a Glass of Wine: Judith Whaley



Meet on last Thursday of month. The group is full at the moment, but vacancies may occur if all do not return.

Amateur Astronomy

Paul Cullen, Judith Wylie

Paul will inform members when an interesting event is due.



Bridge: Tony Swarbrick, Joan Parfect bridge@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Meetings will be in "The Cabin" at Trinity and are held on 2nd and 3rd Wednesdays each month, 10.30a.m. to 12.30. The next meeting is on the on the 14th December. We meet to play friendly relaxed bridge, Joan and myself are on hand to offer advice to less experienced players and from time to time offer "teaching" sessions for people new to Bridge. New members are always welcome.



Book Club: Mary O'Neill

Meetings take place on the 2nd Tuesday of the month at 2pm. The next meeting is on December 13th. Mary has room for one or two more members; anyone interested should contact Tony Swarbrick our Group Co-ordinator.



Lunch Circle: Colin Stredder

The Lunch Circle meets on the 3rd Tuesdays of the month at 12.45 for 1pm lunch. There is no meeting in December as we have our Christmas Dinner.



Music Appreciation: Paul Cullen

The next meeting will be on 5th December at Paul's house. Bring some music you like along. Meetings are now on the 1st Monday of the month 2-4pm.



Walking Group:

Unfortunately the November walk has had to be cancelled due to Stephen receiving a hospital appointment for the day it was scheduled. See below.

Art Group Bernadette Hamilton

There is no meeting scheduled for December as it is so near to Christmas. The next Meeting will be at TWPG in the Sessions Room on Wednesday January 18th 2023 at 10am when Pauline Horner will do a presentation on Breughel.

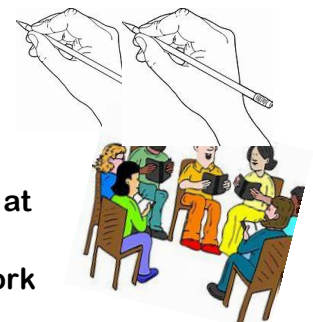


Drawing: Pauline Horner

The next meeting is on December 2nd in the Cabin from 10am to 12.

Play Reading: Eliane Davie

The Group meets at Eliane's house on the second Tuesdays of the month at 10am- 12.30pm. The next meeting is on December 13th when we will be looking at some short scenes from different plays by playwrights whose work we have read recently.



New group: Craft Group ! Joan Benton Joan has started her new Craft



Group. It takes place on the 4th Monday of each month at her home. Next meeting is on the 28th November. New members welcome; those interested should email Tony at: groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Nordic Walking, Corinne Whitham

Meets every week at 10am Tuesdays at the Visitor Centre in Birkenhead Park. If you can't come every week simply come when available, as often or as little as suits. Open to all, why not give it a try? A pair of poles is essential, standard walking ones will do to start. Lightweight walking shoes or trainers are best. Expect to walk for one hour at a smart pace.



Scrabble: Joan Perfect

The group is now full.



Visit to the Tate Gallery for Exhibition of JMW Turner with Lamin Fofana's 'Dark Waters' on November 16th



Thank you to Bernadette for arranging another great trip to the Tate in Liverpool for 25 of us on Wednesday 16th November.

The exhibition is "Turner with Lamona Forfana: Dark Waters". For the exhibition, Lamona Forfana created three audio installations which are played as a background to the exhibition. His theme is reflections on the slave trade and those who were lost at sea. Soft music is combined with clicks and sounds which could be deep in the ocean or the sound of boats lapping against foreign

quaysides. These sounds were recorded in Liverpool, as well as Freetown, Sierra Leone and New York.

The music is a backdrop to several Turner seascapes depicting whaling scenes and maritime disasters. As our guide pointed out, Turner is really a painter of sensations, and he brings home the reality of the dangers at sea. At times his paintings seem indistinct, but they create the illusion of light and movement.



The exhibition also includes some Turner sketch books, including one with sketches of Liverpool drawn from Birkenhead and New Brighton. Altogether a great exhibition, as well as another opportunity to meet with our U3A friends.



Pauline Horner

Drawing Group

In November the Drawing Group met and considered texture in their drawings. They took particular interest in the way Wainwright drew texture in his lovely illustrations in the Lakeland Fells books.

We tried copying walls, houses, bridges and hills from his illustrations. It was tiring work but very enjoyable.



One of our members is an accomplished artist and he uses his time in the Group drawing portraits of his grandchildren.



Pauline Horner



Books and Jigsaws



Thank you everyone for thinning down the books and jigsaw collections; they are at a much more manageable number now and we can return to bringing in books and jigsaws for exchange again. 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!

Friendly Ear

If you know of any member who is sick, in hospital or in need of a friendly chat please let Mary Hamilton or Dot Matthews know. They will contact them to see whether they need help and send cards (where applicable)

CHRISTMAS DINNER



Barbara Winstanley has organised the Christmas Dinner this year which is booked for December 15th at the Prenton Golf Club.

Walking Group

November Walk led by Steve Cottam



DATE : Friday 25th November..
Where: Old Roan to Maghull
Time: 10.15 to start walking at 10.30 train details to be confirmed.
Leader: Steve Cottam
Lunch: Mogul at Maghull
Directions: Meet at Old Roan Station at 10.15
Walk Details: Approx 4 miles. Flat surfaces.
9.31 from Hamilton Square, change at Moorfields (13mins for change) 9.41train from Moorfields arrives Old Roan at 10.04

Unfortunately this walk has had to be cancelled due to unforeseen circumstances.



Lunch Circle On November 15th a good turn- out of the Group, led by Colin Stredder, met for lunch at The Shippons. As we have our Christmas Dinner on December 15th, it was our last group outing for this year and all were in a cheery mood; in fact we were enjoying ourselves so much that we didn't leave until after 2.30pm! The restaurant is very reasonable and has a good menu and a friendly atmosphere.



Our next lunch date is on January 17th when we will eat at the Caernarvon Castle, Oxtun. Our thanks to Colin, for his work in arranging these enjoyable meals.

And finally

Christmas is almost upon us once more and on behalf of myself and the Committee I would like to wish you all a happy and peaceful one. Our final meeting at TWPG this year will take place on December 8th when the talk will be on, 'A History of Ness Gardens'. The following Thursday, December 15th will be our Christmas Dinner at Prenton Golf Club, when many of us will meet for the last time in 2022. It is usually a very enjoyable occasion and we look forward to it.



Our first meeting in 2023 is on the 5th January.

Very best wishes for Christmas and 2023!



Eliane Davie - Editor