



November 2024

Newsletter

Chair's Message

Hello everyone! It has been a busy few weeks since we started back again in September. Our "Bring a Friend" meeting on 3rd October was very successful and we have welcomed some new members, although every Thursday meeting should be seen as an opportunity for us all to encourage our friends and acquaintances to come and see what Oxton and Prenton u3a has to offer – it's not just a once a year thing!

That meeting was also an opportunity to showcase our current Interest Groups and to invite suggestions for possible new groups. So, a huge vote of thanks needs to go to all our Group Leaders for stepping up and sharing what their group entails and to those who came forward with ideas and suggestions.



Our Group Coordinator, Tony Swarbrick, worked hard organising the meeting and set a warm, amusing and welcoming tone with his presentation about the groups, which I'm sure went a long way in persuading new members to join, for which I am sure, we are all very grateful.

Unfortunately, Tony has now retired from his position as Group Coordinator. I and the rest of the committee are obviously sorry to see him go, as I am sure are our members. He has been a hardworking member of Oxton and Prenton u3a for a good number of years and will be greatly missed.

On a more positive note, the committee and I breathed a collective sigh of relief when Eve Felton stepped forward and volunteered to take over the role of Membership Secretary. Eve has been a member of our u3a for a number of years and has served on the committee previously as Assistant Group Coordinator, so although she is new to the membership role, she is an experienced committee member and a very welcome addition to the team. Eve will be overseeing the membership renewals, supported by the other members of the committee, but also our thanks go out to Gwyneth Williams who has once again offered her help and support as Eve settles into her new responsibilities.



So, we are reshaping and renewing our u3a and I think the future looks bright for us, Williamina Edwards has yet again come forward with plans for some interesting trips, Barbara Winstanley has pulled out all the stops planning our Christmas lunch and Pam Southall has organised a fascinating programme of speakers – and we are growing our membership!

As a u3a our aim has always been to be a self-motivated and self-sufficient organisation and we all need to consider ways in which we can help. Could you help as part of the tea and coffee rota? Could you step up to be a “meeter and greeter”? Could you organise an event? Could you give a short talk at one of our Social Meetings?

Many thanks to all of you
Corinne

FINAL DEADLINE

Christmas Lunch

12.00 for lunch at 12.30 Thursday 5th December

Tranmere Rovers Football Club

Barbara Winstanley is away on holiday so Eileen Slater will be on the Christmas Lunch table at the meeting on **31st October** and that is the **LAST OPPORTUNITY** to book, pay for, and make the menu choices – because Tranmere Rovers want final numbers. The price is £34 for three courses with coffee or tea with mince pies with service charge included. Payment is in cash or cheque for the full amount please. Don't miss out.

31st of October 2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

£15 PER ANNUM – INCLUDES £4 INSURANCE COVER

(£11 if member of another u3a,
on production of other u3a membership card)

PAYMENT BY CHEQUE OR CASH ONLY

WANTED

Group Coordinator

As Tony has now retired, we are urgently seeking someone to take over this role.

Interest Groups are literally at the heart of the u3a movement and we need an organised and motivated person who can make sure that we can offer a good range of groups to our members. Although previous incumbents have also been group leaders this is not an essential part of the role, which is basically to ensure support for Group Leaders, keeping them up to date and helping with recruitment and administrative processes. There is always plenty of support and guidance available from the committee, our regional network and the U3a website, so you would not be expected to do the job on your own!

As it is integral to the u3a ethos the Group Coordinator is a key member of the committee.

If this could be you, please do not hesitate to contact any member of the committee who would be more than happy to talk things through, alternatively contact me by email <mailto:chair@oxtonu3a.co.uk> or Carole Lapping our Business Secretary <mailto:secretary@oxtonu3a.co.uk> Either of us can send more detailed information about the role and its responsibilities.

Many Thanks

Corinne



Greer Lacey, a volunteer at Jackson's Animal Rescue gave a talk about hedgehogs. She described how the charity, which started life as Wirral Animal Sanctuary, has an RSPCA approved wildlife centre in Frankby, a Cat Cafe in Hoylake and a property near Mold where they care for larger animals.

She was extremely knowledgeable and passionate about hedgehogs. We learned they are nocturnal, only appearing in daylight if they are ill or injured. They hibernate between November and March, when they lose about 1/3 of their body weight. They eat beetles, caterpillars and worms, so they can be fed cat or dog food safely but absolutely not milk and contrary

to popular belief their fleas are hedgehog specific.

She gave us so much information accompanied by photos and videos and by the end of her talk, we knew about their diseases and the hydrotherapy treatment they often needed before release. We knew what help we should give them to survive in our own gardens and much more.

Thanks, Pamela, for arranging another great speaker.

Wil has organised a trip
Friday 29th November 2024
Trip to Arley Hall, Chapel and Gardens
Christmas Floral Festival –

Decorated Christmas trees, fresh flowers, choirs, festive food and gift fair.

Entrance Fee £13.00 –

Please note that payment is due at the NEXT meeting – 31st October

Coach payment due at the FOLLOWING meeting – 14th November

Transport costs will be calculated when final numbers are known

Lunch with Joan

The inaugural meeting of the lunch club with Joan Benton was held at the Refreshment Rooms and was a great success. According to one of the diners 'Despite the torrential rain- Joan's lunch group got off to a great start! We were made very welcome and the food was, as always, fantastic!'



The Refreshment Rooms



Art Appreciation

More than 20 members turned up at The Williamson to see a new exhibition and to hear a talk by John Elcock. He belongs to the Material Matters artist collective whose project of contemporary art based on the medieval poem Sir Gawain and The Green Knight is on display. John explained how artists had explored three key themes of the Arthurian tale, and in this instance, Chivalry was the subject of the current exhibition.



The art works, displayed in three rooms, varied from painting, sculpture, ceramics, 3D printed material, and sound and film performances - all

designed to explore the value of codes of conduct. With John guiding us we saw works with connections to myth, ritual, alchemy, symbolism and transformation. Without the explanation and context, I would certainly have ignored some of the exhibits – but this time I was encouraged to take a closer look.

Thanks to Bernadette for arranging such an enjoyable and thought-provoking visit.

Monthly Walking



We enjoyed outstanding company, wonderful scenery and perfect weather for our October walk. Led by Ken, around Chester, we went from Bache station, along a lovely peaceful walk through the Countess of Chester Country Park, down along to the canal side and up onto the city walls for the last leg into the city. We arrived at the Lock Keeper pub ready for lunch after a very enjoyable walk.

Chester

NordicWalking

Birkenhead Park is a beautiful place in all seasons and the Nordic walkers have been enjoying glorious autumnal colours.

Birkenhead Park



SPEAKER MEETINGS September 2024 – April 2025

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 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

Oct 2024 – March 2025

31 October	Hilary Robinson Maureen Oldham
14 November	Barbara Riley Marian Jackson
28 November	Poppy Lewis Richard Lewis
12 December	Ellen Wilson Dorothy Mathews
16 January 2025	Gwyneth Williams Gwyn Thomas
30 January	Brenda George Judith Wylie

13 February	Ann Greenhalgh Norma Finlayson
27 February	Julia Turner Karen Little
13 March	Barbara Baker Kathy Sullivan

I would love to hear from anyone who would like to be added to the list of volunteers. It's a great way of putting something back into the u3a, as well as getting to know people. Please contact me on 0151 608 6226. Or 07568563329

Joan Benton

New u3a Magazine – 'u3a Matters'

Our member magazine has undergone a makeover with a fresh new look – and name. We hope you like it.

The u3a matters magazine is published five times a year and posted direct to members' homes in an environmentally friendly paper wrapper. It is packed with stories about members and u3a activities, plus celebrity interviews and features on technology, recipes, travel, competitions, and a lively and popular letters section.

To discover how to subscribe through Oxton and Prenton u3a – see the table set up at meetings.

GROUP NEWS

groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Art Appreciation

Held in the Sessions room in TWPG on 3rd Wednesday in month 10.15–12.00

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

Book Group 2024

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: check with Joyce. Book: 'Cider With Rosie' by Laurie Lee

The Home Reader section of WBC Libraries can supply copies.

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

Book Group

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

Craft Group

The meeting is on the last Monday of the month 2.00 – 4.00. At Joan Benton's house.

Contact: craft@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Lunch Group

Our new look monthly lunch group at the Refreshment Rooms. Numbers are limited to 15 so watch out for the list. The next dates are: 25 November and 12 December

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.

Play Reading

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

Next meeting will be on 12 November

10.00am – 12.30

Play: 'Talking Heads'.

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

Walking Group

Usually 3rd Friday in month. <mailto:walks@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

No walks planned for November and December

Drawing

Due to lack of leader this group is temporarily suspended.

Bridge Group and Rummikub

Due to lack of leader these groups are temporarily suspended

Cryptic Crossword Solving

Due to insufficient interest this group will not be going ahead.

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

And finally.....

Thanks to everyone who helped with this edition of the newsletter, to Steve Cottam for his excellent proofreading, and Corinne for photos.

If you have any feedback about the newsletter please let me know
<mailto:newsletter@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

The newsletters are added to our Prenton Oxton and District u3a website so if you want to show someone what sort of things we offer – direct them to
<https://oxtonu3a.co.uk/>

Kathy