



December 2024

Newsletter

Chair's Message

Hello Everyone,

I don't know about you but it seems to me that Christmas has come up rather quickly this year! Only two more meetings before our Christmas break! I'm not at all organised (I'm not sure I ever am!) but I'm looking forward to celebrating some festive occasions with you all over the next few weeks. The trip to Arley Hall on the 29th November seems a good way to start – and a huge thank you to Wil for sorting it out with her usual calm and good grace. And then we have the Christmas lunch at Tranmere Rovers on the 5th December, we may not be traveling far afield but don't underestimate the mammoth task of getting it off the ground – Barbara you are a star.

Our last meeting before Christmas will be on the 12th December and Pam has arranged for Heswall u3a Ukulele Band to come and help us finish, quite literally, on a high note. To make it properly festive we are hoping to serve mince pies with tea and coffee – I say "hoping" because I'm not a fan of shop bought mince pies so I'm looking for



some volunteers to contribute some homemade ones. I can easily do a couple of dozen but I'm not sure I could make enough for us all plus guests – so if you can make a contribution, please let me know.



Good news for those of you who enjoy playing Bridge, Bill Nock has offered to organise a Bridge Group in the new year. There will be a sign-up sheet at the next few meetings so we can gauge interest and confirm dates. If you are not able to get to the meetings to speak to Bill just email me chair@oxtonu3a.co.uk and I can let him know.

Not such good news for the Groups Coordinator position though – still no sign of interest from members. It is an important role as it supports the valuable work of the group leaders. While we are obviously managing at the moment, we only have a small number on the committee who are already working very hard on your behalf fulfilling their responsibilities to you. Our constitution also does not allow committee members to hold two roles even if we could manage the work load, so until we get some interest we are essentially “treading water” with the current groups and not in a position to either give the leaders the support they deserve or to look at expanding the range of groups we can offer. So come on everyone – dig deep and see if one, or two, of you could take this on.

Our first meeting after Christmas is quite late this time – Thursday 16th January– it’s a Speaker Meeting “An Embroiderer’s Tale” which sounds fascinating and something to look forward to in the dull days after Christmas. So, stay safe, stay warm and enjoy our u3a.

Corinne

2024 MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

£15 PER ANNUM – INCLUDES £4 INSURANCE COVER

PAYMENT BY CHEQUE OR CASH ONLY



Please note that in January the white membership card will be the only valid membership card, and members will be asked to show this card when they attend meeting, groups, trips etc.

My experiences of DNA

Peter Cobley

A large group attended this interesting presentation and Peter began by reminding us of the many TV Programmes which use DNA testing for family history research. He then went on to tell us about the history of genetics including Charles Darwin's 'On the Origin of Species' and Gregor Mendel's experiments with peas.



Peter discussed more of the science involved, but the final part of his presentation was about his experience of using different types of tests to research his own genealogy.

His enthusiasm was evident as he covered the different companies providing DNA testing and told us to wait until the regular price reductions. His advice was always to test the oldest member of a family. Peter recommended 'Ancestry' for initial testing and then uploading the results to other companies' websites.

At the end of the meeting, Peter was one of the last to leave the hall as he was eager to answer questions and to hear the experiences of other members who had already had their own tests done.

Friday 29th November 2024

Arley Hall and Gardens Trip

One ticket has become available

We have permission to use the car park at Trinity and Palm Grove Church. Please arrive by 8.45 am.

Coach leaves at 9.00am.

WANTED

Group Coordinator

We are urgently seeking someone to take over this role.

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

Lunch with Joan



The Refreshment Rooms

Another great meal with Joan Benton hosting was held at the Refreshment Rooms – and was a great success.

Numbers are limited so if signing up for a lunch – please let Joan know if you can't attend.

December's meal is fully booked and deposits paid.

Nordic Walking

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

The weather has been so warm that another clutch of ducklings has been hatched – four months out of season. We hope that it stays warm so the ducklings have a chance of survival. Yet again, we sat outside and enjoyed our coffee and chat.





As you can see, we left our poles at home when, as a group, we attended the fashion show held at the Old Parkonian's Cricket Club on 14th November. It was arranged as a fundraiser to benefit The Holistic Cancer Centre in Ashburton Road, which offers holistic, therapeutic support to cancer patients and carers. It was a fun evening and the sum of £1600 was raised.

Tea and Coffee Rota

Nov 2024 – March 2025

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 members who would like to be added to the list of volunteers. It's a great way of getting to know people. Please contact me on 0151 608 6226 or 07568563329 [Joan Benton](#)

SPEAKER MEETINGS September 2024 – April 2025

12th Dec.	Heswall Ukelele Christmas Performance.	
16th Jan.	An Embroiderer's 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

GROUP NEWS

groupcoordinator@oxtonu3a.co.uk

Art Appreciation

Held in the Sessions room in TWPG on 3rd Wednesday in month 10.15–12.00
Next meeting is on Wed 18th December to view the third part of 'Into the Wyld' at the Williamson Art Gallery. John Elcott, one of the artists involved will be giving a guided tour of Part 3 'Spirituality'. 10 am for a 10.15 start. Please inform me if you are coming so I can inform the gallery of the numbers attending.
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.
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. Next meeting is in January. 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. Next meeting is in January. 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 January 2025 list.

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 10th December

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 December

Bridge Group and Rummikub

These groups now have Bill Nock as their new leader and will be starting up again in January, once meetings days and times are arranged with members.

Drawing

Due to lack of leader this group is temporarily suspended.

Care of members

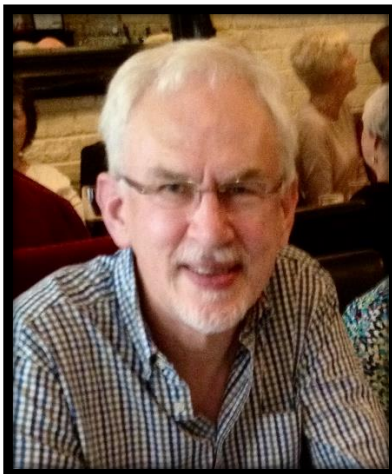
If you know of any member who is unwell, in hospital or in need of a card please let Mary Hamilton or Dot Matthews know.

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.

marycare@oxtonu3a.co.uk

dotcare@oxtonu3a.co.uk



Terence Whaley

Sadly I have to share with you that Terence Whaley passed away on Thursday 21st November 2024.

Terence was a long-term member of Oxton and Prenton u3a, he was a regular participant in our Walking Group and set up and maintained our website until, due to ill health, he was unable to continue.

I know that I am not alone in being saddened by his passing, he was a much-valued member of our u3a who brought humour and warmth to our community.

Our thoughts are obviously with his wife Judy at this difficult time.

And finally.....

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

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 Binns