



February 2025

Newsletter

Chair's Message

Hello Everyone

Welcome back to all our members from what feels like a very long break! I thought our first meeting for 2025, was a brilliant start for us all – Tina Saunders with her “Embroiderer’s Tale” was absolutely fascinating. Pam Southall our Speaker Secretary is doing a wonderful job on our behalf – I honestly don’t know how she does it.

Another positive for 2025 is the restart of our Bridge and Rummikub Group – group numbers are looking positive, but new members are always welcome (and I have it on good authority that Bill Nock, who has taken over as group facilitator, makes an excellent cup of tea!).

However, if we want to continue to maintain and expand our group numbers, we are in serious need of a Group Coordinator to support and encourage our hardworking Group Leaders/Facilitators. Our constitution currently states that the Group Coordinator is an important member of the committee, and therefore a trustee, which I realise that some people may find a little off putting – but I can promise you the position comes with the full support of the other committee members (who are all actually very nice). The committee meets officially 4 times a year, and we provide refreshments and also try to meet occasionally for a social catch up over lunch. We have an official “job description” provided by the Third Age Trust, but if you are interested previous Group Coordinators would, I am sure, be happy to help – I can put you in touch.

As a new chair I have joined the Chairs Forum which is a national u3a group run by and for chairs across the U.K. – it has been both helpful and reassuring to discover that many of the issues we face are shared by other u3as. The difficulty of recruiting volunteers to key roles seems to come up frequently – one chair described their u3a as having too many TUBES, members who “Turn Up to Be Entertained” which is certainly at odds with the ethos of the

u3a and not how I'd want to see our members described. We have a good number of people working away making things happen and making our u3a such a great group. In light of the comment ask yourself, are you a TUBE? Could you be doing more as a member of our u3a? Could you be our Group Coordinator?

Thanks to you all and wishing you a happy and healthy New Year

Corinne

Tina Saunders

An Embroiderer's Tale



As someone interested in all handicrafts involving textiles I had been long been looking forward to Tina Saunder's talk on embroidery. What a nice start to the year. But I was delighted to discover that her 'Embroiderer's Tale' presentation offered so much more.

Tina began by telling us of her apprenticeship at the Royal School of Needlework. She had brought along some impressive examples of her coursework - although not her final piece, an embroidered 3D model of Wembley Stadium!

In order to make a living she had to work multiple jobs - and in her fast talking style she told humorous stories about employment in famous London workshops and doing personalised embroideries for everyone from David Beckham to Dame Edna Everage, alongside embellishing wedding shoes at Jimmy Choo Couture.



After gained a design degree from U.A.L. Tina joined the Royal Household. She was there in her dream job for five years working on many prestigious dresses for Her Majesty Queen Elizabeth. We saw instantly recognisable photos of embroidered and beaded outfits worn for Royal Ascot, weddings, royal tours and Jubilee celebrations - all with the same beautiful craftsmanship.

We also gained Buckingham Palace insider information of everything from royal corgis and the Queen's famous sense of humour to how to tell when the monarch was not happy. It was interesting to hear about the secrecy behind making the dress worn when 'The Queen' jumped out of the helicopter to open the 2012 London Olympics.

Finally displaying work from her own business as Needles and Sparkles based in West Kirby, Tina ended her talk and was warmly thanked by her audience.

Bridge and Rummikub

January Group



New leader Bill Nock with Tony on hand to help new members learn bridge. Meetings are held in the Cabin. Also available to play is Rummikub. This classic and award-winning game of strategy has easy to follow rules. Some say it's a cross between Rummy and Mahjong. Get rid of your tiles to win!



Lunch at the Refreshment Rooms

January



A quote from one diner - "The lunch group today - we were looked after so well by all the staff, and the food was, as usual, just fabulous!"

Nordic walking

Birkenhead Park



A bit chilly and damp but it was good to see everyone and get some exercise.

Bus Consultations

30th January

Bus services in the Liverpool City Region are due for reforms. Billy Bradshaw the Engagement Officer is organising consultations about the changes. He will be at our next meeting on Thursday 30th January to hear our views.

Other News



Our u3a has several groups who might enjoy a trip to Liverpool encompassing art and craft.

‘Threads through the Bible’ is an astonishing display of embroidered panels inspired by three parts of the Bible. Textile artist Jacqui Parkinson retells the stories in a vibrant combination of silks, paint, metallic leathers and gold leaf – with 25 million stitches. On display till 2nd March at the Anglican Cathedral.

Admission Free.

From Kerry Ward,

I am writing to you as I am the Growth and Partnership manager for Coram Beanstalk, a national charity with 50 years' experience of helping children to grow a love of reading.

We have recently had a number of new schools in Oxton and surrounding areas partner with us and we are looking for a few people who we can train to become reading helps and support in these schools. We provide all the training via zoom as well as a DBS check.

I was wondering if your u3a members would be interested.

I look forward to hearing from you,

Best wishes,

Kerry.Ward@corambeanstalk.org.uk

Read our latest impact report [here](#)



Coram Beanstalk, Coram Campus, 41 Brunswick Square, London
WC1N 1AZ

Registered Charity no. 296454

Life changes when you choose reading.

#WeAreCoram

corambeanstalk.org.uk

coram.org.uk

Follow our story by signing up to our [newsletter here](#)

TERENCE WHALEY

Judith and family thank you for your
Expressions of sympathy on the loss of
Terence.

We are so grateful for the support you have
shown us
in the last few months.

SPEAKER MEETINGS January– July 2025

- 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

- 30 January Brenda George
Judith Wylie
- 13 February Ann Greenhalgh
Norma Finlayson

27 February

Julia Turner
Karen Little

13 March

Barbara Baker
Kathy Sullivan

It's a great opportunity to help out and get to know people. To be added to the list for 2025 please contact me on 0151 608 6226 or 07568563329

Joan Benton

GROUP NEWS

Important notice – We are seeking a Group Coordinator.

To find out more about the role contact any member of the committee or:

<mailto:chair@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

Art Appreciation

Held in the Session room in TWPG. 10am for 10.15 start. Next meeting 26th Feb. Piero Della Francesca. An Early Renaissance artist.

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

Book Group 2

Meets 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.

Next meeting: 20th February. Contact Joyce: <mailto:book2@oxtonu3a.co.uk>

Book Group 1

Meets in Oxton at Val Edward's house on the second Tuesday in the month. Full at the moment. 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 lunch group hosted by Joan Benton is held monthly at the Refreshment Rooms. Numbers are limited so watch out at TWPG meetings for the signup sheet. This has proved to be a popular event so please let Joan know if you are not going to be attending once you have signed up. It is usually on the third Wednesday in the month.

Next lunch group meeting: 19th Feb at 12:45 for 1:00pm

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.

Play Reading

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

Next meeting: 11th February 'A Man for All Seasons' by Robert Bolt

10.00am - 12.30

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

Bridge Group and Rummikub

Bill Nock is the new leader with Tony on hand to teach bridge to new members. Meets in the cabin at TWPG on the fourth Wednesday in the month at 10.00am

Walking Group

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

31st January – Three Parks Walk – postponed from last week.

Central Station 10.30. meet inside ticket barrier. Train to St Michaels. Walk includes Otterspool Park, Sefton Park, Princes Park – return to Bold Street. No lunch booked.

Drawing

Due to lack of leader this group is temporarily suspended. Previously approx. 10 – 12 people of all skill levels attended monthly for 2 hrs. Most meetings were held in the 'cabin' and some sessions were held outdoors in fine weather.

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

And finally.....

Thanks to Steve Cottam for his excellent proofreading, which he manages to fit in his busy schedule – much appreciated by me. Thanks also to Corinne for photos and Carole Lapping for additional information. *Kathy Binns*

