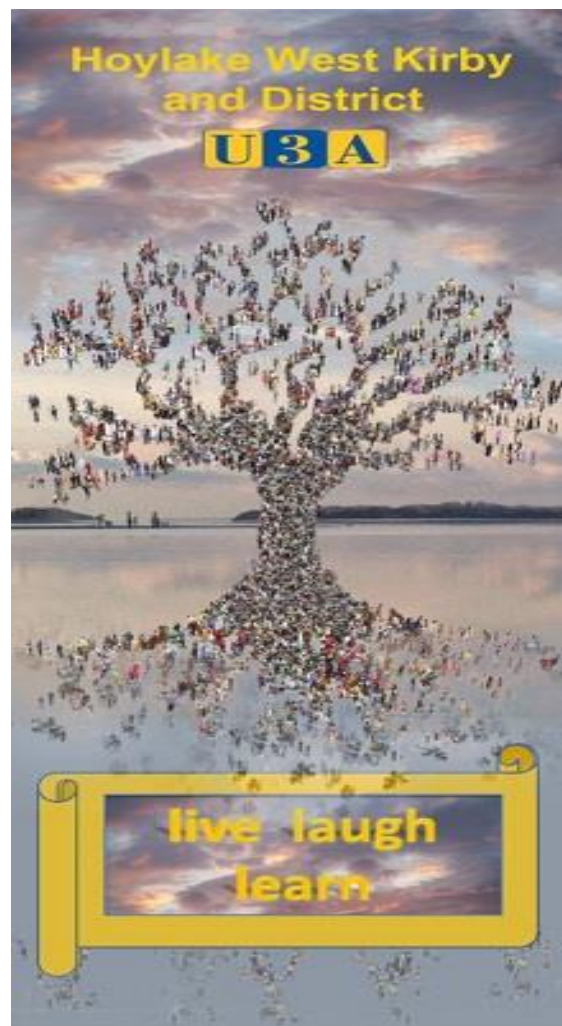




**Hoylake and West Kirby**

# **Interest Groups Information**

(This is a brief synopsis)



The details in this information booklet are subject to change

## HOW TO JOIN A GROUP



- The Interest Groups Team can tell you what Interest Groups we have in our U3A. The team can be found at the Interest Group table at the monthly Speaker Meeting.
- How the process currently works – Register your Interest to one of the team.
- If the group has **spaces**, you will **also** be asked to contact the Contact person yourself.
- If a group is **full**, we will put you on a waiting list for that group. When there are enough names down, a second group of the same type can be started, but 2 people on that list will need to be the Contacts and hold the contact details of everyone in that group.
- However, the Contacts aren't responsible for 'running' the group. This is done by all members, deciding on the format and when and where it will take place.
- Everyone in the group must play a part, whether it be researching a project, giving a small presentation, or arranging a trip.
- If you would like to start a group of a type that we don't have, please let us know.
- When you become a group member, you will make new friends, but please be aware of the following points:
  - If the group meets in a home, each member pays £1 to the host towards any costs incurred in hosting the meeting. (Refreshments, room heat etc.)
  - If the group rents a room for meetings, the cost is shared by all members on a semi-annual basis.
  - A group member is not a passive role – as mentioned above, you all need to contribute.
  - Always inform the group Contact if you are unable to make a meeting. You will forfeit your place if you are absent from more than 3 meetings without good reason.
  - You will be required to fill in a Group Joining form for every group you join.
  - You are responsible for your own belongings whilst attending a group meeting.
- **Just remember, Interest Groups are not tutored.**  
**The Groups Team will assist in every way that we can to make every Group successful.**



# THE INTEREST GROUP TEAM

GROUPS CO-ORDINATOR

HELEN CRELLEY

0151 678 5714

[hcrelley@gmail.com](mailto:hcrelley@gmail.com)

TEAM MEMBER

MARGARET GASCOIGNE

07484 848 059

[margaretgascoigne@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:margaretgascoigne@hotmail.co.uk)

TEAM MEMBER

HILARY ALCOCK

0151 648 0439

[hil7mill@btinternet.com](mailto:hil7mill@btinternet.com)

**We are always looking for people to help us with the Interests Groups.**

**Please speak to one of us if you think you might like to be part of our team.**

## Antiques and Collectables

**Jane Kennedy** Tel: 625 9969

[janeleighkennedy@gmail.com](mailto:janeleighkennedy@gmail.com)



We take it in turns individually, or via general contribution, to look at types of antiques or collectables, or even an antique style. These findings are then shared with the rest of the group, and items shown. We sometimes have a speaker and go on visits to museums/galleries etc. We meet in each other's homes on the 3rd Tuesday of the month at 10.00 a.m.

## Art Appreciation

**Felicity David** Tel: 625 9181

[fdavid@talktalk.net](mailto:fdavid@talktalk.net)



We are a group who enjoy finding out about Art and sharing this knowledge with each other. We meet at the Hoylake Community Centre, at 10.30 a.m. on the 1st Friday of each month. We also arrange visits to art galleries and other venues.

## Art Appreciation 2

**Mavis Dean** Tel: 3635155

07855 978 118

[mavis.dean@btinternet.com](mailto:mavis.dean@btinternet.com)



As a team, we hope to discover Art and discuss how it has evolved throughout history. To also learn to identify the different movements and styles. We meet at 10.30 a.m. to 12.30 p.m. on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday. We also arrange visits to art galleries and other venues.

## Backgammon

**Rosemary Tate** Tel: 625 6259

[r.tate182@gmail.com](mailto:r.tate182@gmail.com)



Backgammon is a small friendly group which meets on the 1<sup>st</sup> Friday of each month in the West Kirby room at the Hoylake Community Centre from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. Equipment is provided. All levels of experience are welcome, and help is always available from other group members.

## Bird Watching

**Jonathan Thornton Tel: 625 6791**  
[thornton\\_jonathan@hotmail.com](mailto:thornton_jonathan@hotmail.com)



We meet once a month on the 2nd Tuesday at various times, this is usually at Burton Mere Wetlands Visitor's centre where we stay for one and a half to two hours. Although we are all amateurs, we are learning about more species month by month. This is done by recording what we see as well as helping each other with bird identification. As you would expect, the birds vary with the seasons. There are usually experienced 'birders' about who are keen to share their knowledge.

## Bridge Intermediate

**Chris Van Bergen Tel: 07884 345 601**  
[cvanbergen@outlook.com](mailto:cvanbergen@outlook.com)



Enjoy a game of Bridge every Monday. Meet at 2.00 p.m. at the Newton Arms, Newton.

Unfortunately, we can't take beginners, but believe it is hoped to set up a group to teach Bridge.

## Café & Conversation

**Helen Crelley    Tel: 678 5714**

**Carol Johnston Tel: 678 1680**

[hcrelley@gmail.com](mailto:hcrelley@gmail.com)

[ciejohnston@gmail.com](mailto:ciejohnston@gmail.com)



 We have a Café & Conversation Morning Group which meets every 4th Monday of the month at The Grange in Hoylake at 10.30 a.m.

These coffee mornings are for any member who would like to meet other members and have a good chat.

If you are new to our U3A, we can explain how things work and tell you about our Interest Groups.

If you are interested, please contact us. We need to know numbers for booking tables.

## City Studies

**Keith & Vanessa Blackwell Tel: 625 4987**

keith.blackwell@hotmail.com



This group goes to places of interest in Liverpool. We meet on the 3rd Thursday of the month (times vary), at our house where we discuss the arrangements and hear the background to a visit. Then the actual visit takes place the following month. Members in small groups decide where to go and organise the arrangements for the day, including coffee and lunch breaks, as well as the history or facts relating to where we are going.

# Creative Writing

**Helen Crelley Tel: 678 5714**

[hcrelley@gmail.com](mailto:hcrelley@gmail.com)



We are an informal group who wish to write for pleasure but who would also like to improve our skills. We share ideas and learn from each other. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of each month at the Hoylake Community Centre from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. We start the session with a 10-minute task, then read out the stories we have written on the topic set the previous month. We try to vary the type of writing that we do and we have a lot of fun although we take our writing seriously. All are welcome.



## Cycling Group (social)

John Goodchild Tel: 632 4904  
[johngoodchild704@btinternet.com](mailto:johngoodchild704@btinternet.com)



**The Social Cycling Group** meets on the morning of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday of each month and 4<sup>th</sup> Friday of each month. The two groups, 'A' and 'B', cover different distances. The ride organiser can advise you as to the distance each group will cover. We choose routes which are on quiet roads and tracks.

The group that rides further sometimes uses Merseyrail to extend the area that we cover. (Usually from April to October)

It is often possible to shorten the distance, using trains or short-cuts. Finding a suitable cafe for an early lunch is as important as the cycling! A ride leader plans the route and chooses the café. We have members using conventional hybrid bikes, e bikes and an e tricycle. We choose a pace that suits the slowest rider, and we make sure no one is left behind!

## French Improvers

Jean Nile Tel : 625 1563  
[nilejandr@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nilejandr@yahoo.co.uk)



This group meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Monday at 10.30 a.m. in Jean's house. The group started as beginners but has progressed well. Unfortunately, not suitable for complete beginners.

## French Intermediate

Jean Nile Tel: 625 1563  
[nilejandr@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:nilejandr@yahoo.co.uk)



We enjoy brushing up on our grammar, remembering our vocabulary and learning new, as well as improving our conversation skills. We meet every Friday at 10.30 a.m. in Jean's house. We work from an intermediate French course book, working through the units and listening to the CD. We spend some time on conversational French and read French stories.

## Garden Interest Group

Sandra Mealor Tel: 632 2568

[smealor@hotmail.com](mailto:smealor@hotmail.com)



We are a group of enthusiastic (not expert) gardeners who meet to swap ideas, techniques and hints about all and any aspects of gardening. We meet in each other's houses on the last Friday of the month, or occasionally we visit other gardens. We learn from each other, and swap or share plants and cuttings.

## Online Garden Group

Marjorie Hargreaves Tel: 632 1188

[marbroom@gmail.com](mailto:marbroom@gmail.com)



Although this group began as a garden group, we became very large and now mainly concentrate on visiting gardens or flower shows.

We have an outing most month during warmer months, normally on the last Wednesday of the month.

In 2022 we will be visiting Dunham Massey's Winter Garden, RHS Bridgewater, Goldstone Hall Gardens, Shrewsbury Flower Show and others.

Being a very large group, members are contacted by email only. At present there are no places available, but when they become , they will be advertised in the Hoylake West Kirby and District online Newsletter.



## General Knowledge Quiz

Lis Thornton Tel: 625 6791

[m\\_e\\_thornton@yahoo.com](mailto:m_e_thornton@yahoo.com)



We are a friendly group who aim to have fun and sharpen our brains. We meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday of each month from 2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m. Each member will be encouraged to compile a quiz of two sets of 10 questions and read them out.

## History General

Carol Johnston Tel: 678 1680

[ciejohnston@gmail.com](mailto:ciejohnston@gmail.com)



If you love history, this is a friendly and lively group. We each look at a period, person or a particular event, and share our findings with the rest of the group. We do this individually, but sometimes work in pairs. Our discoveries have been very interesting and often unusual. We meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 10 a.m. to 12 noon at my home.

## History 2

Ruth Simmons Tel: 07948 631 730

[ruthsimmons874@gmail.com](mailto:ruthsimmons874@gmail.com)



Explore the past - periods in time, people, events that shaped our world today. Share your knowledge and findings with a group of friendly, like-minded people. This is a new group, so you can all make this the kind of group you would like.

## History Local

**David Royse Tel: 458 1485**

[cdavidroyse@gmail.com](mailto:cdavidroyse@gmail.com)



A new group just getting started. Research and learn about the history of our locality in the company of others, sometimes visiting places of local interest.

## Everything Italian

**Helen Crelley Tel: 678 5714**

[hcrelley@gmail.com](mailto:hcrelley@gmail.com)



Learn a new language with new friends. Learn basic words and phrases and discover Italy and the Italian people.

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of the month in our own houses –  
2.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m.

## Local Interest Group 1

**Sue Kurton Tel: 632 5540**

[sue.kurton@yahoo.com](mailto:sue.kurton@yahoo.com)



We meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday each month at various venues depending on where we are going. A couple of times a year we meet at the Hoylake Community Centre at 2.00 pm for a planning meeting. The group members take turns in organising trips and outings of interest; usually travelling by public transport. Anything goes!

## Local Interest Group 3

**Andrew Meadows Tel: 606 0894**

[almeadows@mail.com](mailto:almeadows@mail.com)



This group visits local attractions. Every member take turns in arranging visits. We use public transport where possible and always have time for lunch or afternoon tea! Mersey-rail travel where we arrange to meet on a particular train.

## Local Interest Group 4

**Barbara Lowry Tel: 07984941775**

[barbaraglowry@aol.com](mailto:barbaraglowry@aol.com)



We meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 2.00 pm for planning meetings a couple of times a year. Visits will usually take place on the 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month, but could change for visits depending on venue. The group members take turns in organising trips and outings of interest; usually travelling by public transport. Anything goes!

## Local Interest Group 5

**Marjorie Hargreaves Tel: 632 1188**

[marbroom@gmail.com](mailto:marbroom@gmail.com)



Starting soon. Will meet to arrange visits to various places of interest on the Wirral, Liverpool and Chester and sometimes further afield.

## MahJong

**Pat Marr Tel: 837 2205**

[pat.marr@btinternet.com](mailto:pat.marr@btinternet.com)



We play to British Society Rules as agreed by U3A. We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month, from 2.00 p.m. to 4.00 p.m. at the Hoylake Community Centre.

## Needlecraft Group

**Barbara Kirby Tel: 632 2901**

[beky2740@gmail.com](mailto:beky2740@gmail.com)



We are a friendly and supportive group who enjoy doing a variety of different types of needlecrafts. We share ideas and learn from each other. Those of us who have a particular skill (e.g. crochet) are happy to pass this knowledge on. We meet at Barbara's house on the 4th Thursday of the month 2.00pm - 3.30pm. If you have an interest in needlecrafts we would love you to come and join us.

## Play Reading 1

**Jean Bishop Tel: 632 5145**

[jeanbishop1@btinternet.com](mailto:jeanbishop1@btinternet.com)



We give members the experience and enjoyment of reading plays together as a group. We also learn a few details of the playwright and something about the background of the play. A general discussion takes place at the end of the session. We meet on the 2nd Thursday of the month at 10.00. There is a break for coffee, and at least twice a year we extend our meeting socially in a local restaurant for lunch.

## Play Reading 2

**Jeni Lee Tel: 903 2207**

[jjean@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:jjean@hotmail.co.uk)

**Pam Symes Tel: 632 1467**

[p\\_symes@hotmail.com](mailto:p_symes@hotmail.com)



If you are interested in theatre and drama, this group gives you the opportunity to take part in a variety of plays in a relaxed way. We meet every 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of the month 10.30 to 12.00. We take it in turns to read through the play, taking individual character parts. Plays are obtained from Liverpool Central Library and we take turns in collecting/returning these. It is great fun trying out different accents and of course playing a range of unusual characters.

## Poetry

**Ann Johnson Tel: 678 1260**  
[ann\\_hiveprimus@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:ann_hiveprimus@yahoo.co.uk)



We always start with a coffee and a chat then everybody makes a contribution to the monthly meeting which reflects their own interest in poetry, often focusing on a particular poet and reading one or two of the poems aloud, but that isn't compulsory!

We meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Wednesday of the month at 10.30 a.m. at The Green Lodge, Hoylake.

## Quizzers

**Barbara Bemrose Tel: 07746 575 772**  
[babemrose@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:babemrose@hotmail.co.uk)



Join us for fun quizzing and learn new Facts and Trivia!  
Every 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday from 2.00 to 4.00 p.m. in our homes.  
Everyone brings along 2 sets of 10 questions.  
Any sort of quiz, any theme.

## Reading Group 1

**Marjorie Hargreaves Tel: 632 1188**  
[marbroom@gmail.com](mailto:marbroom@gmail.com)



Reading Group 1 meets on the afternoon of the third Tuesday in each month. We discuss and decide which books we wish to read and all obtain our own copies. Some read on Kindle others purchase the book. We all read the same book each month and discuss it at the following month's meeting. We each take a turn to give an opinion of the book before having an open discussion about it.

## Reading Group 2

**Carol Johnston Tel: 678 1680**  
[ciejohnston@gmail.com](mailto:ciejohnston@gmail.com)



If you enjoy reading and like to talk about the books you have read, then this is the group for you. Each month, the books are obtained from the library from a previous list. After we have read the book, we give our opinion; this often provokes some lively discussions.

We meet monthly on the 3rd Thursday at 10.30 a.m.

## Science and Technology

**Mike Waring Tel: 07792578414**  
[mike@devicemark.co.uk](mailto:mike@devicemark.co.uk)



"No science background required! We welcome all who have an interest in science and technology. We have not so far had regular meetings and hope to arrange visits to places of interest and to bring in speakers with appropriate subjects. We also inform our members about other meetings locally that have science and technology themes."



## Scrabble

**Felicity Griffiths Tel: 07811404580**

[felly9966@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:felly9966@yahoo.co.uk)



The scrabble members are meeting every 4th Friday in the month 2.00 - 4.00pm at the Hoylake Community Centre. We are a mixed ability group "scrabble wise" and we welcome beginners. The emphasis is on enjoying the game, in a relaxed atmosphere, and having a pleasant afternoon.

## Sunday Lunches

**Jo Marshall-Clarke Tel: 632 3840**

[jommarshallclarke@btinternet.com](mailto:jommarshallclarke@btinternet.com)



We are a group of members who meet on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of each month at various venues, previously agreed by the group for food, companionship, conversation and maybe a drink or two! We agreed that a group of no more than twelve is manageable to facilitate conversation.

## Theatre Group

**Carol Bradstreet Tel: 364 4554**

[cabradstreet6@sky.com](mailto:cabradstreet6@sky.com)



We are a friendly group who meet on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday of the month at 2.30 pm for booking. Over a cup of tea or coffee we discuss future productions and if members are interested, we make enquires. We go to a wide variety of productions in various theatres and venues.

## Theatre 2

**Catherine Ditchfield Tel: 07513 006 751**

[c.ditchfield@sky.com](mailto:c.ditchfield@sky.com)



Newly started. We meet over a cup of coffee to discuss future productions and arrange bookings. We plan to go to a wide variety of productions in various theatres and venues.

## Tuesday Strollers

Jean Franey Tel: 632 3076

[jean@franey.co.uk](mailto:jean@franey.co.uk)



We are a small group of people who like to walk for half an hour to an hour, at a rather gentle pace. Our aim is to encourage some activity for those of us who find long walks difficult. An important part of the proceedings is the visit to a cafe for conversation! We meet at 10.30 a.m. on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday of the month when the weather is propitious. Destinations and duration are chosen by agreement, always in the Wirral and preferably accessible by public transport. You are very welcome to join us, so please contact me for further information.

## Walking - easy (1)

Audrey Bottle Tel: 677 6781

[a.bunny1934@gmail.com](mailto:a.bunny1934@gmail.com)



This group enjoys a flat circular route in the countryside with pleasant company, although the pace is often dictated by the conditions underfoot. We meet every Wednesday at 10.00am (weather permitting) at various points on the Wirral and generally walk for about 2 hours followed by a coffee break. We are flexible and accommodate everyone according to their individual needs. I organise the route we are taking, and members are expected to contact me the day before when this is clarified and to also confirm that they are attending the walk.

## Walking - moderately easy (2)

Ian Browell Tel: 677 7403

[barb\\_ian@hotmail.com](mailto:barb_ian@hotmail.com)

Jonathan Thornton Tel: 625 6791

[thornton\\_jonathan@hotmail.com](mailto:thornton_jonathan@hotmail.com)



We aim to keep fit by getting to know both the Wirral and Merseyside by walking together in a sociable and friendly group. A moderate level of fitness is needed as we walk for at least an hour (typically 2 - 4 miles) but at a relaxed pace. Refreshment breaks are taken either at mid walk or at the end, depending on length of walk. We meet every 2nd, 3rd, 4th Thursday morning at approximately 10.00 a.m. at a pre-arranged point. Members take turns in suggesting walking routes.

## Walking easy (3)

**Stephanie Hunter Tel: 604 0974**

[stephaniehunter2@gmail.com](mailto:stephaniehunter2@gmail.com)



Make friends and keep fit!

We meet on a Friday once or twice a month. Members keep in touch on a WhatsApp group.

## Walking – Intermediate

**Jean Graham Tel: 625 2370**

[grahamj1701@gmail.com](mailto:grahamj1701@gmail.com)

**John Goodchild Tel: 632 4904**

[johngoodchild704@icloud.com](mailto:johngoodchild704@icloud.com)



The Walking (Intermediate) Group is meets at 10.30 a.m. on the morning of the 3rd Monday of the month. The intention is to plan walks along byways and footpaths and explore the many interesting and sometimes hidden places on the Wirral. A refreshment break is included, ideally mid-walk, or otherwise at the end. Walkers need to be of a decent standard of walking fitness/pace to do up to 5 miles.

## Wine Appreciation

**Keith& Vanessa Blackwell Tel: 625 4987**

[keith.blackwell@hotmail.com](mailto:keith.blackwell@hotmail.com)



We like to explore the wines of the world; grape types, how and where the wine is made, the vineyards and their history. Group members take it in turns to research three wines (or four, depending on group numbers), and small samples of food pairings that complement the individual wines are also offered. We meet in our own homes on the 2nd Wednesday, or Thursday, of the month at 7.30 p.m. The results are given, and the price of each wine, and where purchased is discussed. We have a maximum limit to the cost of the wine; this, along with cost of food sampling, is divided amongst us. This is a good way to judge wines in a relaxed and sociable atmosphere.

## World Classics

Barbara Kirby Tel: 632 2901

[beky2740@gmail.com](mailto:beky2740@gmail.com)



As I host this in my home, it is limited to a maximum of 7 members. We will be reading Classic novels from Europe, the Commonwealth and the New World. This is a progression from our earlier studies of the history and development of the novel genre but you do not have to be familiar with this. You do have to have an interest in world literature and the construction of the novel. Members are encouraged to suggest novels and take an active part in the discussion.