



**Hoylake, West Kirby**

**& District U3A**

[www.u3asites.org.uk/hoylake](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/hoylake).

**December 2022**

Reg. Charity no.1164889



From the Chair ...

It's been so good to see so many new faces at our meetings. Every month more of you are joining us. I sincerely hope that you enjoy your U3A membership and make many new friends.

I know some of our newer members attended our Christmas lunch at the Royal Liverpool Golf Club. I spoke to as many as I could and was so pleased to hear how much they had enjoyed it. It couldn't have been bettered in any way. A wonderful welcome, food, service and a fabulous venue. Many thanks to Judith Healey for being kind enough to sponsor us, and to Linda, Carol and Wendy for all the arrangements.

I am grateful for all of our wonderful Committee members but am especially proud of Jules who whilst providing us with some great speakers also won the Sight Council's Volunteer of the Year Award. She tells us something about the work they do on page 3 of this newsletter. Do read it; I think you will be surprised and impressed at the achievements of this very wonderful group of volunteers.

We are so reliant of volunteers in our own U3A and value them highly. From the check-in team, the ladies who organise meeting refreshments and raffles and books and are so willing to help out where and when necessary all help to make us the lively and vibrant U3A we are. Hope Church personnel have provided us wonderful assistance and made us feel welcome in that lovely airy Church. Thank you all.

I recently attended a most enjoyable Group leaders coffee morning hosted by the Group's Team; but was sad to hear the problems some of the Group Leaders are encountering. If you belong to an interest group please read what the Team have to say later in this newsletter. Though I'm sure that *you* are not one of the members they refer to!

May I remind you that our meeting on 4<sup>th</sup> January will be an excellent opportunity to renew your U3A subscription, browse the groups and book tables and enjoy refreshments. In addition we are expecting to have a visitor from the Wirral Road Traffic department to attend to give us the latest information about the proposed road closures, parking and traffic arrangements during the week of the Golf Open Tournament in July. It is still a bit early to confirm but Terry is presently negotiating with Wirral traffic department and is quite optimistic.

Now it remains for me on behalf of all the Committee members to wish you all a warm and peaceful Christmas followed by a happy and healthy New year,

Your friend and Chairman,  
Marjorie





### Our Forthcoming Speakers by our Speaker Secretary Jules Lee

Hello everyone,

It was wonderful to see so many of you attend in such bad weather to hear Ed Montanna-Williams fascinating talk on 'What makes Art Modern?' Ed is such a popular speaker and has a wealth of information to share, that we will be inviting him back again.



**On Wednesday 7<sup>th</sup> December** meeting we look forward to welcoming Julian and Jackie Davies, owners of Julian's fabulous restaurant in Hoylake. Their talk is entitled '*Julian's Christmas Cracker*'. You will hear some of Julian and Jackie's favourite anecdotes of working in the restaurant profession over many festive seasons.

**Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January 2023** as mentioned previously, will be our membership renewal meeting. Terry McKeown is arranging some firsthand information on what traffic re-arrangement are in store for us during the week of the Golf Open Tournament in July.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> February 2023** Victoria Doran will return from her travels long enough to tell us about '*The Old Ways and New in Rural and Coastal Morocco*'.

**Wednesday 1<sup>st</sup> March** - I was delighted to be able to book Art Historians & Miniaturists Kevin Mulvany & Susie Rogers who will talk to us about their work on bespoke miniature houses. More details to follow, but meantime google: [mulvanyandrogers.com](http://mulvanyandrogers.com)

**Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April** Michael Corfe will return to tell us more about F.E Smith, a.k.a. Lord Birkenhead

**Wednesday 3<sup>rd</sup> May** - we will hear about The History of the Royal Liverpool Golf Club and The British Open Championship

Later on in 2023, amongst other things we can look forward to hearing from a 'wing walker' and a Bee-Keeper. Keep reading your Newsletters for further information.

With all good wishes,  
Jules



This year's seasonal words of wisdom from Mrs M & Mrs S ... and many thanks to our wonderful cartoonist Ron Burke.

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## Merseyside Sight Loss Council

*You may remember Jules Lee writing about the new Merseyrail trains she had inspected on behalf of The Merseyside Sight Loss Council back in October 2021. I recently asked Jules to write more about the volunteer work she does for this organisation. I think you will be fascinated to read more about the work undertaken by this great team.*

**International Volunteer Day on Monday 5<sup>th</sup> December is a special day for us to recognise and promote the work of volunteers.** It is also an opportune time for me to share with you some details about my volunteering work for the Merseyside Sight Loss Council. It is a truly rewarding and fun part of my life since I retired from employment. I have made some lovely new friends and have been able to combine my work and live experience to good use for the benefit of others.

All Sight Loss Councils are made up of volunteers who are blind or partially sighted and our role is to tackle local issues: you may remember a piece I wrote about accessibility testing the new Merseyrail train stock in a previous Newsletter. When the new trains are in situ, our network will be the most accessible across the



country. Groups such as the Sight Loss Council played an important role in designing the new improved train stock. *(above: Jules with Steve Rotherham and some other members of the Team)*

Every project we become involved in aims to make a positive impact for blind and partially sighted people. Currently we are working on projects to improve access to Hospital outpatient services at The Royal Liverpool University Hospital, as well as retail and leisure facilities. We have been able to speak directly with M.Ps, Peers at the Houses of Parliament, and closer to home our Metro Mayor Steve Rotherham and retailers at the Croft Retail Park in Bromborough.



I was honoured to be recognised for a prestigious award at the Annual Sight Loss Council recently. I was named as the National Volunteer of the Year. I am also very pleased to say that the Merseyside Team were recognised with the Team of the Year Award. I know I am not unique in volunteering but I do want to stress how personally rewarding it has been. Please think about giving up some of your time, it could build

your confidence by giving you the chance to try something new, have fun, and build a real sense of achievement locally. *(above: Jules being presented with her award)*





We recently held a most enjoyable coffee morning for our Group Leaders. It was so good to get together and share information.



During the morning Mike Waring gave a demonstration of Beacon which was helpful, and the leaders of groups which are presently full agreed to keep their own 'waiting list'. Therefore, if you wish to join a group which is presently listed as being 'full' please contact the leader of the group and ask him/her to contact you if a place becomes available.

We did enjoy the morning but were dismayed to hear Group leaders complain about the problems some of their members cause them. You may be surprised, but here are a few examples.

- Group members who do not let them know that they do not intend to attend a meeting. They simply 'don't turn up'. The rest of group are often waiting for these people. Yes, it is bad-mannered and disrespectful to the Group leader. Your Group Leader makes a commitment *to you*, makes arrangements in advance, and *never* misses a meeting without alternative arrangements. The least a group member can do is email or phone in advance to give apologies.

We reminded the leaders of U3A policy that states that if a group member misses 3 meetings without notice then that person should be asked to leave the group. The Groups team and the Committee fully support the Group Leader in this and will step in to enforce this.

- Another complaint was that the closure of Monte Carlo Restaurant has forced some group leaders to find an alternative venue for their meetings. The Group leaders have put in their time and efforts researching the various venues. They found suitable venues but they are not free.



To ensure that they can cover the rent Group leaders are advised to collect the money for the rent of the venue from all the group members in advance. Usually between 6 and 10 months in advance. For example, a monthly rental of £15 per session would cost £90 for 6 sessions. This amount should then be divided by the number in the group and paid in advance to the Group leader. This works perfectly well with the majority of groups and group members ... however some members refuse to pay because they either expect group meetings to be free of charge or 'they go on holiday' and think that they can 'pay as they go'.

This is not fair to the rest of the group and could leave the Group Leader without funds to pay the rental, therefore the Group Leader is at liberty to ask these members to leave the group if they cannot agree.

Our Group leaders are very important to us and it is good for them to have an opportunity to discuss their problems. The Groups Team will give them all the help and support they can. Groups are the backbone of our U3A and we all need to play our part in ensuring they run smoothly.



Most Groups support and appreciate their Group Leader. It is sad to hear of those who don't. However the next page brings happier news from the Gardening and Cycling Groups.



Helen Crelley, Carol Johnson and Jenny Pender.



### **The Gardening Group**

Our group recently visited The Palm House in Sefton Park, Liverpool. We were delighted by the very warm welcome and wonderful light lunch the staff had arranged for us. The feeling of



really being in the centre of the Palm House rang through the whole outing. Our tour guide was fantastic as she joined us at our table and explained the history of the building. Many photographs were produced and passed around illustrating the hard work carried out by many people to enable the eventual opening of such an iconic structure. A tour of the plants and outside was

arranged and enjoyed. Having had such a good explanation prior to the tour made it even more enjoyable and educational. It was a really good day with lovely company.

Sandra Meolor

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### **The Cycling Group**

We set off towards Birkenhead at 10:30am with no rain although a bit of a head wind coming up the Mersey. Good company and banter made the miles slide by and before we knew it, we were at our coffee stop at Hamilton Square, a distance of 12 miles.

The group then posed for this photo after a successful pleasant ride.



After our refreshments part of the group decided to return by train from Conway Park.

The remainder of the group (the 'tender bottoms' crew) returned via Bidston to cover an additional 8 miles but alas the weather turned, and we had a last 2 miles cycling in the rain against a head wind.

Thanks to Nick Dinan leader for the day and John Goodacre the group organiser ... we had a great day!

Rick Riley



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**A very warm welcome to those of you who joined us in the latter part of 2022.**

**They are:** Susan Amyes, Barbara Bemrose, Kath Bowden, Joyce Brittain, Angela Crockett, Hilary Jane Cullen, Sue Dare, Judith Foster, Alexandra Furness, Anne Gunnel, Kaye Kelly, Valerie Large, Janet Longman, Dorothy Quayle, Jane Stewart, Marianne Thornton, Elizabeth Wood.

We hope that you will enjoy your membership and make many new friends. Welcome to you all.

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**Time to say goodbye.**



Ann and I feel that we cannot leave the Wirral and especially our U3A without saying goodbye to all you lovely folks. We've been members of West Kirby and District U3A since we moved to the area in 2011 during which time we both served on the committee for the maximum allowed time; Ann as deputy Chairman and me as Speaker secretary and Social



committee member. We have very fond memories of the coach trips to faraway places including the fun and laughter of our 4 day Irish trip. When we joined U3A there were very few groups but Ann coaxed and cajoled members into becoming more proactive resulting in a huge increase both in number and interests of the newly formed groups.

Having sold both of our houses, in December we are moving to a new build retirement complex in Lytham where we won't have to worry about house maintenance and all the worry of getting people to do jobs etc as it's all built into our new home. After knowing each other for 60 yrs we have also decided to 'tie the knot' on Ann's 80th birthday 22nd February.

There's no doubt that we shall investigate the local U3A in the area with a view to 'enlisting' whereby we can be very subtle and point out how we've been used to being members of a very well organised and successful branch of the organisation.

Thanks Marjorie and all for all your hard work, we wish you great success for the future and good health and god bless you all.

Harry Copnall and Ann Stott

**And we send all our good wishes to Ann and Harry in their new home and wish them many long and happy years together.**

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**Michael Littler**

It is with great sadness that I must inform you that Micheal Littler, a most charming gentleman died recently. His wife Lynn had been a member for many years. She is a member of the online garden group and also enjoyed many social outings. Michael joined us almost two years ago and until a severe dose of



covid set him back was hoping to start a snooker group. He was suddenly taken ill at home and despite a valiant effort by Lynne, sadly passed away. We send our deepest condolences to Lynn and all their family. Michael was not a man who will be easily forgotten by anyone who met him. Rest peacefully Michael.

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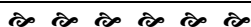
### Our Website.

You may have noticed that our website has recently been down. This is due to circumstances beyond our control. There was a major problem with the Third Age Trust's Host provider. Volunteers and senior staff at National Office worked hard to resolve this frustrating difficulty and although it is working at present it may well be a 'temporary fix' but they hope to have the websites running efficiently again shortly.

In the meantime, We offer apologies on behalf of the Trust who assure us that 'normal service will be resumed as soon as possible'

Jonathan Thornton

Webmaster.



### Annual Renewals

Your U3A renewal is due on 31<sup>st</sup> January 2023. In order to avoid long queues on meeting days we use the first meeting in January, in this case **Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> January as our designated renewal day for those of you who wish to renew in person or by cash payment.**

We find this is usually a popular day to re-emerge after the Christmas/New year holiday and meet up again at Hope Church. We will have many helpers ready to process your payment quickly, and there will be renewal forms available there, so no need to print one out.

Other ways to renew are:

- Postal payments. £25 Cheques made payable to 'HOYLAKES, WEST KIRBY & DISTRICT U3A' and sent to: Ruth Lacy, 1 Bradgate Close, Moreton, Wirral CH46 6FN.
- BACS online payments: Sort Code: 30 15 52, Account number: 04012839 (Ref: your name and membership number (on your new yellow membership card) and please email Ruth ([treasurer@hwkdu3a.org](mailto:treasurer@hwkdu3a.org)) when you make a BACS payment.



**From the Newsletter Editor ....** when I offered to produce a monthly Newsletter for the duration of the pandemic in March 2020 I little thought that I would still be doing it almost 3 years later! The committee thought that a Newsletter would help us to keep a contact with our members and remind them that the U3A was still there and that we were thinking of them.

Mike Waring still circulates the newsletter to all members who provide an email address, and we also have copies printed. The printed copies are available at the monthly meetings and you are welcome to take a copy whether you have received an email newsletter or not.

Happily we can now all attend meetings and interact with our friends and speakers, so Newsletters have become less important and we can reduce the frequency of our newsletters. We will endeavour to deliver copies to non-e-mailers when we can. Our next Newsletter will be produced shortly before the February 2023 meeting.

Until then a very Happy Christmas and a happy, healthy, prosperous New year to all our readers.  
Marjorie

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