

Lymm and Thelwall u3a

Newsletter

July 2023

Registered Charity Number 1182457

Dear All,

Firstly I would like to thank Allen Sealby for agreeing to be our Membership Secretary. He will be great at the job. Secondly, we are delighted that Jim Owen has agreed to be co-opted on to the committee. It is brilliant to get so much support.

Those present at the last Members' Meeting will have noticed that we are trialling a different layout in the hall. The registration was in the foyer with members' names split into two lists. The Interest Groups' information table was just on the right as people walked in, a lovely spot for the potential new members to sit and chat about our u3a and learn how to join us and our clubs. Thanks to all who helped. If you would like to help with this area or Meet and Greet please let us know.

We hope that this will give more room for chairs nearer to the speaker and in the central body of the hall for coffee and chatting and also make it easier for new members to get any information they need.

As we said, this is being trialled. We will monitor how it works.

Members' Meetings - Christine Ballance

*Our Members' Meetings are held at Thelwall Parish Hall on the **third Thursday** of the month.*

Visitors are welcome to attend two meetings before joining.

The next meeting will be on **Thursday 20th July** from 10.00 a.m. for a 10.30 a.m. start.

Refreshments will be served from 10.00 a.m. Do come along early for a drink and chat.

Thursday 20th July **Josephine Gosling** **Travel talk** **"Strolls Past Structures"**

An illustrated talk with a digital photograph show, looking at the various structures passed on walks in Britain and Europe. For example: How was a real tiny man served in a pie? What are the seven wonders of the waterways? Where is the Druid's Temple? And many more.

Thursday 17th August **No meeting** **See social at Laskey Farm**

Thursday 21st September **Anna Alexander** **Child Labour in Warrington**

Anna's talk will look at the industries in Warrington in the first half of the nineteenth century and the types of jobs in which children, as young as six years old, would be employed.

Thursday 19th October **Jean Finney** **History of Nursery Rhymes**

The language and music of nursery rhymes. Who would have thought those jolly little rhymes and ditties we recite over and over with our tiny loved ones could hold the key to some of our medieval English History! Be prepared to be shocked, amused and surprised and whatever you do don't tell the kids!

Dates for your diary to promote our u3a

Sunday 16th July Our u3a are having a stall at the Eco Event at St Mary's Church Hall to promote our u3a. Please pop in and say hello if you are near.

Saturday 23rd September Thelwall 1100 Festival. This promises to be a lovely occasion celebrating Thelwall's 1100th birthday. We are also present at this event and hope you can join us!!

Members' Meeting

Sue Clarke writes, 'At our June meeting we were treated to an uplifting morning of musical nostalgia. Kevin and Joy Siddall took us on their Musical Meander Around Britain. As we travelled, they performed songs associated with selected places. Our stops were backed up/supplemented by nuggets of interesting insights and background information. These included Kevin's miserly parking behaviour, Paul McCartney's inspiration when waiting for John Lennon at a bus stop and an Irish anthem sang at sporting events that can drown out the New Zealand Haka.

I strongly suspect most songs were familiar to us, however here's a play list for your reminiscence and interest. Starting from their home in Droylesden we stayed in the North West for three songs - Salford (**Dirty Old Town** by Ewan McColl), Liverpool (The Beatles, **Penny Lane**) and Wigan (**Uncle Joe's Mint Balls** by the Rochdale Cowboy, Mike Harding). Up to Scotland for the haunting, traditional **Wild Mountain Thyme** then down into the North East with Roger Whittaker's **Durham Town**. Venturing into God's own country, Yorkshire, we had two songs, **On Ilkley Moor Baht'at** and the coastal **Scarborough Fair**. They acknowledged their student years in the Midlands but didn't represent it. Travelling south to Framlingham in Suffolk they chose the **Theme from the TV series The Detectorists** and from London **A Nightingale Sang in Berkley Square** immortalized by Vera Lynn in wartime. We moved west to Cornwall for lively **Sea Shanties** then up to Bath and the home of Sting, for **Fields of Gold**. Wales was represented by **Handbags and Gladrags** performed famously by Stereophonics. Crossing the sea to Southern Ireland we had the anthemic **Fields of Athenry**, written by Dubliner Pete St John. Finally, returning home to Salford we finished with Brian and Michael's tribute to LS Lowry, **Matchstalk Men and Matchstalk Cats and Dogs.**'



A vote of thanks was given by **Alistair Beattie** for a journey we all enjoyed and appreciated.

Places still
available

Events and Social — Any ideas for events please contact
socialevents@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk.

Summer Jolly : Laskey Farm

Thursday 17th August at 2.00 p.m.

If you have put your name down for this event you will have received information on how to make the payment for this.

We now have over 30 people coming but there is still time to join us for a Summer Jolly at Laskey Farm.

We will be able to admire the beautiful gardens and enjoy refreshments with fresh scones and cream or cake. This will be outside weather permitting but if the weather is inclement we will retire to a barn.

Please book your place as soon as possible as places are limited.

The cost will be £12.

Payment details will be sent to you in due course!



Spotlight on...the Cruise

In weather unsuitable for a cruise 43 hardened members travelled by bus, Metro and car to the appointed start in Castlefield. Our leader was so fastidious that she shepherded two adults on Altrincham Station who weren't even in the group! As we enjoyed our first coffee of the day the Emmeline Pankhurst pulled on to the berth in driving rain. We were piped on board by our Chair, whose choice of headgear had prompted a passer-by on the Metro to greet her with 'hello sailor.'



On the outward journey the on board commentary vied with the banter and laughs coming from the tables. Fortunately, we were under cover. The Leek and Potato Soup was followed by chicken, both excellent fare and cooked on the boat. A nautical quiz added to the atmosphere although 'Rock the Boat' proved a tricky song title to crack. (Hues Corporation). We disembarked near the Lowry Theatre. Some headed for educational pursuits, others found the shops. A dour Scottish voice in Pavers was heard to say, 'this wasn't on the agenda'. Crumble and custard, followed by tea or coffee formed the second half of the meal as we headed back. The prizes



were in keeping (roughly) with the theme of the day. The Prosecco 4 won the quiz play off with an answer of 30,617.5 miles when asked to guess the length of Francis Chichester's



round the world voyage. Impressive detail and only a thousand miles out. We got back on to dry land at four o'clock. Thank to Lynn and Susan for their organisation and bravery in wearing the hats!

News from our Interest Groups - Muriel Howarth groups@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk

Our new French group is starting this week. It is going to be held on the first Monday afternoon of the month in the upstairs room in the Spread Eagle. If you want more information or to join please contact Alison Beattie via the French Conversation (intermediate and advanced) Group Page on the website.

Group Gossip

A big thankyou to all the group leaders who sent in updates for the Group Gossip. It makes it so much easier for me to add information to the newsletter. Please send any updates to me, Sue Mitchell, at newsletter@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk by **Tuesday 25th July**

Badminton Group

We meet weekly at Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane (off the car park at the rear) at 9.00 a.m. on Wednesday mornings.

We currently have a total of nine players, but any who have played previously are welcome to join us. The subscription to cover rental and equipment is around £10 per month, but variable depending on playing numbers, etc.

Crown Green Bowling

The Crown Green Bowling Group meets at High Legh Bowling Green (adjacent to the Village Hall triangle, off A50) on Monday afternoons at 1.50 p.m. for a 2.00 p.m. start.

A tea break is taken around 3.00 p.m. and the sessions end around 4.00 p.m.

Any interested member is very welcome to join us and instruction can be provided for any novices.

The weekly charge is 50p to cover refreshments.

Flower Arranging

Do you love flowers? Then come along to the *Flower Arranging Group*. It's open to *all*, beginners or more experienced. We try new or different design techniques, ideas for preparation and maintenance of plant material to help it look fresh.

Create a design based on the suggestion or one of your choice. We meet between 2.00 p.m. and 3.45 p.m. on the second Friday of the month at St Mary's Church Hall, off Crouchley Lane, Lymm, so have a small levy to cover room hire. A selection of floral sundries is available for purchase, so bring a container, plant material, scissors/secateurs, table cover and a waste bag. A selection of designs and two information sheets are on the Flower Arranging web page. For more details, contact Catherine via the website

French Conversation

There's already been a lot of interest in our new French Conversation Group but there is still room for a few more members. This group is intended to be a relaxed conversation group for intermediate to advanced French speakers. There will not be homework or grammar



lessons. Members will help each other with vocabulary if we get stuck (or we'll ask Google Translate). Our first meeting - at 1.30 p.m., upstairs at the Spread Eagle on Monday 3rd July - will consist of people introducing themselves to each other, which will naturally lead on to questions & conversation. If there's still time, we may talk about holidays. "À la prochaine!"

Genealogy

Our group is going from strength to strength, with so much support between members and the monthly talks given by members have been outstanding. June's topic of "Using old newspapers in your research" was presented by Elaine, who is also doing a presentation in August on "Bigamy". We are all looking forward to that one!

The next meeting will be on Tuesday 18th July.

Lunch Bunch

From July, the Lunch Bunch group are looking for a new leader as the current leader is no longer in a position to carry on organising the lunches. They currently meet once a month on a Monday but the day could be changed to suit anyone taking over. Please contact the Interest Group Organiser if you would like to take this on.

Strollers

A very pleasant walk was enjoyed by sixteen members of the Strollers Group around Arley. Led by Christine, the Strollers walked down the lane to Arley Green, seeing house martins, which had nested under the eaves of a property on the estate, and a distant view of Arley Hall. On reaching Arley Green the cottages overlooking the Green and the lake were greatly admired as was the old school building. The walk continued through woodland and returned via a field path from where we retraced our steps back to the car park.



4-6 ers

The 4-6ers enjoyed a super walk from the Axe and Cleaver, along the Bridgewater Canal, fields and footpaths including through Dunham Massey and along the Trans Pennine Way. It was a great walk lead by James and throughout the walk he pointed out different birds, flora and fauna!! The company was good and so was the lunch. Thanks James



Striders

Well, it seems Striders can only take place in extreme weather - usually rain but this time hot sunshine. Original numbers for this walk started at



19 but over the month whittled down due to double booking, injury, medical appointments, grandparent duties, Father's Day treats, concern about heat etc to 6. The walk had been modified due to the heat but still turned out to be 10 miles and steep slopes. Arguably the toughest walk we have done so far -

up Moel Famau, along the undulating ridge and back but nevertheless a great walk with fabulous views and a lucky breeze that reduced the impact of the sun. I did receive some complaints that there was no ice cream van in the car park when we got back but you can't please everyone!! Next walk Wednesday 19th July. Lantern Pike.

Ukulele

The Ukulele group is progressing well and now has 25 members. We meet each week on Tuesday nights and focus on us all enjoying the singing and playing. The great thing about our group is that we operate in a way that enables new players to fit in and feel comfortable. All of us were novices at some time and we respect that newcomers need only play the chords that they can and will gradually pick things up over time. As long as you are willing to practice then we are willing to provide a great social/singing/playing group to find your ukulele feet with.

Wellbeing Bird Watching

On 9th June members of the group went to RSPB Burton Mere, always a popular location, and two weeks later were back on local territory with a core walk round Lymm Dam, a few then venturing on to the Beyond All Things Creative Exhibition nearby. Thanks, Andrew, for this wonderful picture.



Beyond All Things Creative Exhibition

Thanks to everyone who participated in and visited the exhibition on Friday, 23rd June. It was really lovely to see all the exceptional work produced by our groups and to see members and potential new members admiring the exhibits. A full report will follow, with pictures, in next month's newsletter.



u3a – Online Learning Events

Richborough Roman Fort and Amphitheatre

Thursday 6th July 10.00a.m - 11.00.a.m

This talk takes the audience on a virtual tour of one of the most important Roman sites in Britain; not to be confused with Caesar's brief visitations 100 years earlier. Richborough or Rutupiae, as it was known by the Romans, is considered the primary location for the invasion of Britain by the Romans in AD 43.

The site is unusual as its one of the few places across the country where we have evidence of continuous occupation for the almost 400 years of the Roman occupation of Britain.

In 2021 the amphitheatre was excavated, for only the second time. This talk includes an update on the new understandings gained during this exciting time. Jenny the speaker was onsite during the excavation, a very special experience which she is happy to share.

This virtual tour lasting about 40 minutes takes the audience on a journey, pausing to look at interesting features, using a mixture of the latest evidence and interpretations, theories, and the occasional legend to help bring the site alive for a virtual or seated audience.

This event is for u3a members only.



Expedition Cruising: The Scattered Islands

Thursday 20th July 2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Neil Stevenson speaks about visiting the rarely visited, French occupied, coral atolls in the Indian Ocean. Neil has been a member of Up Holland & District u3a since 2009 and a member of Wigan u3a since its formation in 2018. He is presently the North West of England Trustee. Neil has travelled to some of the least visited and remote parts of the world. This series of talks are about visiting parts of the world with few or no inhabitants. Places that can best be accessed by small cruise ships.

The talks feature the fauna and historical background to the places visited.



How to join these events

These are free online events for members. Press the events link below and then click on Online learning events. You will find a selection of other free events. <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events>

The u3a movement is a unique and exciting organisation which provides, through its u3as, life-enhancing and life-changing opportunities. Retired and semi-retired people come together and learn together, not for qualifications but for its own reward: the sheer joy of discovery!

Our Groups If you would like to join any of our groups please always contact the Group leader via the group page on the website. Click the icon to email the Group Leader. They will reply to you!!

<i>Activity</i>	<i>Regular Meeting Contact</i>	<i>Venue</i>
Art	Friday a.m.	St Mary's Church Hall
Badminton	Wednesday a.m.	Grappenhall Community Centre
Book Club	1 st Thursday a.m.	The Spread Eagle, Lymm
Book Club 2	1 st Wednesday a.m.	The Little Manor, Thelwall
Crown Green Bowling	Monday p.m.	High Legh Bowling Club
Canoeing Water Safety	Occasional Sessions	
Climate and Environment	1 st Thursday p.m.	
Cinema	Occasional Outings	Various
Cycle maintenance	As and when required	
Cycling	2 nd Tuesday and 4 th Thursday	Various, see web site
Flower Arranging	2 nd Friday p.m.	St. Mary's Church Hall
French (Advanced)	2 nd and 4 th Thursday a.m.	The Sanctuary Hub
French Conversation Intermediate and Advanced	1 st Monday p.m.	The Spread Eagle Lymm
Genealogy	3 rd Tuesday am	Lymm Village Hall
German	Monday	Private home and via zoom
The Lunch Group	3 rd Friday	Contact via website
The Lunch Bunch	2 nd Monday	Contact via website
Mosaic	Friday a.m.	St. Mary's Church Hall
Music Appreciation	2 nd Thursday p.m.	Lymm Youth / Community Centre
Philosophy	2 nd and 4 th Tuesday a.m.	The Spread Eagle, Lymm
Sketching Out	Last Monday of the Month	Various
Storytellers	1 st Friday	The Spread Eagle
Stitch 'n' Natter	Wednesday a.m.	The Little Manor, Thelwall
Theatre and Concert	See web site	Various
Ukulele	Tuesday evening	United Reform Church
Walking Strollers	See website	Various
Walking 4-6ers	See Website	Various
Walking Striders	2 nd Wednesday	Various
Wellbeing Birdwatching	Friday a.m. fortnightly	Various Locations



Important Notice about recycling Medicine Blister Packs

Please don't bring Medical Blister Packs to the Members Meetings!

As Superdrug will only take packs from individuals we can't collect these at the Members' Meetings. Instead please take them back to your own pharmacy.

We will **continue** to collect contact lenses and their blister packs, toothpaste tubes, spectacles (don't require glasses cases) and stamps.

Contact Us

Lymm and Thelwall u3a web site:

[Lymm & Thelwall u3a: Welcome To Lymm & Thelwall u3a \(u3asites.org.uk\)](http://u3asites.org.uk)

Lymm and Thelwall u3a Facebook page:

[Lymm & Thelwall u3a - Home | Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/LymmThelwallu3a)

enquiries@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk

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