

# Lymm and Thelwall u3a Newsletter



September 2023

Registered Charity Number 1182457

Dear All

I hope you have all had a great summer and managed to get out and about despite the weather. I took this lovely picture of our Vice Chair Marcia up to one of her vices, when her Morris Dancing Group took part in the Traditional Lymm Rushbearing.

Those people who attended the Laskey Farm Social had a wonderful afternoon. Many thanks to Wendy and Howard who made us feel so welcome. Those present heard about the National u3a Week. There are a number of online events that can be participated in. One event they suggested was an Alfresco in Autumn. More about this further down in the events section. **Sue, Chair**



## 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 21<sup>st</sup> September** 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 a chat.

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> 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 19<sup>th</sup> 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!

**Thursday 16<sup>th</sup> November**      **Steve Barrett (a revisit)**      **Science of Santa & Star of Bethlehem**

How many laws of physics does Santa break? Can his (alleged) feats be reconciled with scientific reasoning? What are the astronomical candidates for the Star of Bethlehem? How do they fit the account? Do known events fit the timeline of the Nativity?

## Dates for your diary

**Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September** Group Leaders thank you Brunch

**Thursday 21<sup>st</sup> September** Members' Meeting followed by the Alfresco in Autumn

**Saturday 23<sup>rd</sup> September** Thelwall 1100 Festival. This promises to be a lovely occasion celebrating Thelwall's 1100th birthday. We are also present at this event, promoting our u3a, and we hope we see you there!

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September** Stockport Air Raid Centre Trip

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November** Lymm Heritage Centre Talk

**Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December** Wreath Making

**Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December** Christmas Social

**Events and Social** — Any ideas for events please contact [socialevents@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk](mailto:socialevents@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk).

No booking needed  
Just come!!

## Alfresco in Autumn

Come and Picnic with us!! 21<sup>st</sup> September Midday until 1.30 p.m.

### On the Grass outside the Parish Hall

We have decided, as part of this nationally coordinated event, to hold an Alfresco in Autumn picnic after the Members' Meeting, outside on the grass.

Anyone who wants to join us just bring your picnic, a deckchair and a drink (If you want a hot drink bring a flask so the refreshment team can join in as well).

Once the Members' Meeting finishes we can move outside, weather permitting, and eat our picnics together.

I am envisaging a beautiful autumnal sunny day!!!

We can eat inside if it is raining or inclement.



## Stockport Air Raid Shelter Trip

Price £10

**Thursday 28<sup>th</sup> September at 6.00 p.m.** A private trip which will provide a memorable visit that truly brings the Home Front to life. The tour lasts approximately one and a half hours. We start with a film introduction then a guided tour of the lit tunnels and some not accessible in the normal visits. The floor can be uneven in places. The number on the trip is limited. For more information about the trip contact me, Sue, at [newsletter@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk)

Very limited  
spaces available

## An evening at Lymm Heritage Centre

Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> November at 7.30 p.m. Price £4

**Elizabeth Chadd – Lymm's forgotten pioneer.** When Elizabeth Chadd was born in 1838, in a Booths Hill beer house, she was the fifth of what would eventually be ten children. Her life was seemingly mapped out before her: school till the age of ten follow by years of fustian cutting before marrying and having ten children of her own. But one "sliding doors moment" set her life on a totally different and remarkable path that took her on an epic journey to the other side of the world where Elizabeth overcame adversity and acquired skills to eventually establish a reputation that makes her work still important today. She is truly Lymm's forgotten pioneer.

Using newly rediscovered archive material, photographs, newspaper cuttings and her own family correspondence from the time we will take you on Elizabeth's incredible life journey. **Alan Williams** has kindly agreed to host us for a talk about this Lymm pioneer, at the **Heritage Centre**. The cost is £4 which includes tea/coffee and a biscuit. Please register your interest if you intend to join us by contacting Sue M at [newsletter@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk)



## Christmas Wreath Making

Tuesday 5<sup>th</sup> December 2.30p.m. at E Smith's Nursery, Booth Lane

Christine has booked for a group to go and make a Christmas Wreath at E Smith's.

The places are limited so early booking is essential. The cost will be around £30 depending what you add to your wreath. Please contact Christine at [speakers@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk](mailto:speakers@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk) to book your place and more information.



## Christmas Social

Please add the afternoon of Thursday 7<sup>th</sup> December into your diaries as this is the date for the Christmas Social. More details next month.

## Spotlight on... Laskey Farm

Many members are already familiar with Laskey Farm in Thelwall but it did not stop fifty of us from visiting recently. The weather turned out to be perfect and we were greeted warmly by Howard and Wendy. First Howard told us about the history of the farm, which has been in his family for 4 generations. He spoke with passion about the various projects that have developed on a farm dating back to the mid



1700's, including their charity work which has raised almost £200,000. Next, Wendy explained how she had come to horticulture after teaching art for numerous years and how she developed the garden which is continuing to evolve. We were treated to separate tours of the award-winning

gardens and the five interconnecting water features, one of which was home to terrapins. The secret garden was a surprise and the sculpture there was a big hit. Sunny weather perfectly brought out the beauty of the landscape that the Platt family has developed. Equally impressive were the variety of homemade cakes that Wendy had baked for us and served afterwards with refreshments.

Thanks have been sent to Wendy and Howard for providing us with a wonderful setting for such a happy afternoon. Also, a big thankyou to Yvonne for organising the event.



### Recycling up date



Linda Monk is delighted to let us know that she took 150 pairs of used spectacles which were collected from our members to Knutsford Lions. She says that it is fantastic to think of how many people in the Third World areas will be able to regain vision that they have lost.

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

## Spotlight on... the July Meeting by Sue Clarke

The July meeting, our last one before the summer break, was well-attended. The subject of the talk was very appropriate for many of us. Josephine Gosling, a retired teacher from Manchester, is a keen traveller and walker. She has created a series of talks based on her experiences. Under the title '**Strolls past Structures**' she presented us with a compilation of types of structure found on many walks with her husband. Josephine added a brief background and interesting and amusing anecdotes about the examples which were cleverly divided into sections. Many were familiar to us and included:



- **Tall** Glastonbury Tor, a permanent maypole in Warwickshire, the Saxon Cross at Bakewell Church, Bury's Peel Tower and Bolton's Winter Hill Mast.
- **Long** Wells plaque commemorating Mary Rand's Olympic long jump and, for ramblers, the 268 mile long Pennine Way.
- **Round** Stonehenge, Carlisle's Clock Tower, Wookey Hole with its maturing cheddar cheeses.
- **Boxes** traditional telephone boxes, many given new purposes housing defibrillators and books, and Aysgarth's yellow and black AA box
- **Animals** Troy - a 1970's reproduction of Homer's BC Wooden Horse and, just down the road at Warrington's Defence Barrier, a plaque to the longest-living horse, Old Billy.
- **Food** Australia - Sydney Harbour Seafood Platter, Bay of Naples coffee and Slovenia - Lake Bled cake.
- **Crossings** Shropshire's Ironbridge and the Tees River Bridge with gondola ride.
- **Water** Romania - The Bucharest fountains, Rossendale Waugh's Well and Derbyshire villages well dressings.
- **Canals** Anderton Boat Lift, Barton Swing Bridge and Llangollen - the not for vertigo sufferers Pontcysyllte Aqueduct.

Josephine concluded with some amusing signs starting with her namesake Gosling Street and, in Winchelsea, the 'I told you I was ill' on Spike Milligan's grave. She also included some amusing boat names including LERRIT B for Beatles fans, Onion Bargee, Syl L Billy, Y Not and appropriately Pist 'n' Broke. A vote of thanks was given by Gordon O' Connor.

## Group Gossip

A big thankyou to all the group leaders who sent in updates for the Group Gossip. Please send any updates to me, Sue Mitchell, at [newsletter@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk) by **Saturday 23rd September due to imminent holiday!**

### Art and Mosaic

Our next meeting is on Friday 8<sup>th</sup> September at 10.15 a.m. Art and Mosaic are now sharing St Mary's Church Hall on Friday mornings. New members welcome.

**Badminton Group** The Badminton Group is up and running every Wednesday morning from 9.00 a.m. to 10.00 a.m. However, this group is now at capacity so I will be opening a "Waiting List" for any future interested members.

There is a charge of around £2 per player per week, payable monthly in advance, to cover the hire of the Sports Hall to the rear of Grappenhall Community Centre, off Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall.

Intending members please contact Geoff via the webpage

### Crown Green Bowling

The Crown Green Bowling Group has resumed on the Green on Mondays at 1.50 p.m. for a 2.00 p.m. sharp start. The fee per session is 50p per bowler, to cover the refreshments.

Any Member interested in joining this group is welcome to attend but it would be really helpful to know in advance, so please email Geoff via the web page.

### Cycling

We had an interesting ride out to Anderton Boat Lift in August. We will look to do the same route in reverse this month.



## Flower Arranging

For our August meeting we met outside in the garden. Well-used books were used to create an alternative flower holder. We return to our normal venue in September, St. Mary's Church Hall.



## French Conversation

The French Conversation Group had its first meeting in the upstairs room at the Spread Eagle in July. We had nine people, all competent French speakers, so there was some good conversation going on! Over coffee, we all introduced ourselves and talked about our plans for the summer.

Our next meeting will be on 4th September at 1.30 p.m. New French speaking members are welcome - please message the group leader through the website.

## Genealogy

The genealogy group will be meeting up on the Tuesday 19th September between 11.00 a.m. and 1.00 p.m. Lymm Village Hall, new members very welcome. This coming year the subs will be £20 which covers members for the full 12 meetings throughout the year. We aim to help each other with our searches, share interesting discoveries and have fun at the same time!! Bring your own refreshments!

## Sketching Out

On Monday 27th September we have been invited by Mrs Christine Purlow to sketch her home which is a lovely black & white timbered old farmhouse called Old Hall Farm, located immediately to the left of the stables in the road into Thelwall when travelling from Lymm.

Our visit is particularly significant right now because Thelwall Village is celebrating its 1100 years.

Please note that all members of our sketching group are invited to bring a friend along for up to two "trial" sessions without commitment.

## Strollers

Our August walk was led by Sheila and Peter around Grappenhall with lunch at the Rams Head. During the walk Sheila suggested an impromptu Blackberry Ramble for anyone wishing to pick blackberries. Peter and Sheila were joined by Alan and Lynn

Hopwood. They picked blackberries along the narrow path from Thelwall Parish Hall that leads to the Ferry over the Ship Canal. They then took the ferry over the canal and proceeded to look for more



berries, however, there weren't many. A

council worker said he had picked lots earlier in the week!! However, he

had secateurs and cut some teasels for Lynn. She also found wild honeysuckle. They then returned on the 1.30 ferry.

## 4-6 ers

Our latest walk, led by Duncan, was a five mile route from the Pheasant Inn at Burwardsley, in the shadow of Beeston and Peckforton Castles. The Cheshire countryside looked beautiful, and we walked down what is reputedly the most impressive



example of a sandstone cobbled road in England, although David did not think so when he slipped over! At times, we felt as if we were walking through jungle! We thought we might

meet Dr Livingstone!

## Striders

Susan and David led fifteen members on the August

walk around the reservoirs near Turton Tower, north east of Bolton. Starting from Edgworth, the eight and a half mile circular route showed off the splendour of the Lancashire countryside and featured aspects of the industrial heritage of the area.



Next walk. Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> September. Three Shires Head. Approx 8 miles. For more details contact the Striders' Group leader.

## 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 practise then we are willing to provide a great

social/singing/playing group to find your ukulele feet with.

## Wellbeing Bird Watching

Our latest outing was to Moore Nature Reserve, one of our core destinations, where we enjoyed the odd blackberry or two in amongst another pleasant amble and chat. The highlight was the trio of goldfinches in formation on the telephone line above us.

# u3a – Online Learning Event

## History of the British Secret Intelligence Services

### - as portrayed in the media

Friday 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2.00 p.m. -3.00 p.m.

Location Online

Moira MacQuaide, Guildford u3a, will talk us through and present on:

- Her connection to the Intelligence Services
- Some early history of espionage
- 20th century intelligence services, including MI5, MI6, GCHQ, Bletchley Park and Counter Terrorism
- Famous spies
- How to join the intelligence services
- Books and films about the intelligence services

This event is for u3a members only.

Not a member? Find out more and [join here](#)



## Trees, woods, climate and nature –

### what's all the fuss about?

Wednesday 20<sup>th</sup> September, 10 .00 a.m.

Location Online

We are very pleased to welcome John Tucker from the Woodland Trust - a forester of nearly 30 years' experience. John will be giving an exclusive talk to u3a and leading a discussion on how to get involved in supporting wildlife and the environment. This follows on from the movement's incredible achievement in helping to plant nearly 10,000 trees for its 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary wood last year.

The online talk will be hosted on Zoom. Book your place using the link below.



### How to join these events

These online events are free for members. Use this link below to discover the online learning events [www.u3a.org.uk/events](http://www.u3a.org.uk/events)

**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!!

If you have any ideas for a new group please contact Muriel [groups@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk) our Group Coordinator and she will be able to advise how a new group can be formed.

Activity	Regular Meeting Contact	Venue
Art	Friday a.m.	St Mary's Church Hall
Badminton	Wednesday a.m.	Grappenhall Community Centre
Book Club	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday a.m.	The Spread Eagle, Lymm
Book Club 2	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>st</sup> Thursday p.m.	
Cinema	Occasional Outings	Various
Cycle maintenance	As and when required	
Cycling	2 <sup>nd</sup> Tuesday and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday	Various, see web site
Flower Arranging	2 <sup>nd</sup> Friday p.m.	St. Mary's Church Hall
French (Advanced)	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Thursday a.m.	The Sanctuary Hub
French Conversation Intermediate and Advanced	1 <sup>st</sup> Monday p.m.	The Spread Eagle Lymm
Genealogy	3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesday am	Lymm Village Hall
German	Monday	Private home and via zoom
The Lunch Group	3 <sup>rd</sup> Friday	Contact via website
The Lunch Bunch	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday	Contact via website
Mosaic	Friday a.m.	St. Mary's Church Hall
Music Appreciation	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday p.m.	Lymm Youth / Community Centre
Philosophy	2 <sup>nd</sup> and 4 <sup>th</sup> Tuesday a.m.	The Spread Eagle, Lymm
Sketching Out	Last Monday of the Month	Various
Storytellers	1 <sup>st</sup> 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 <sup>nd</sup> Wednesday	Various
Wellbeing Birdwatching	Friday a.m. fortnightly	Various Locations

## Interest Groups Online

As well as joining our groups you can subscribe to Interest Groups Online (formerly called Trust u3a).

Interest Groups Online is a platform for collaborative learning. It is an online community, bringing people together from across the u3a movement and beyond. There are around 70 different groups that meet online across a wide range of subjects. Groups are interactive and vary depending on the needs of the participants.

Find out more on our [Interest Groups Online page](#).

For those members who have no online access this letter can be posted to them.

## 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](mailto:enquiries@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk)

## Committee Contact Details

<b>Chair</b>	Susan Mitchell	<a href="mailto:chair@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk">chair@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Marcia Dale	<a href="mailto:vicechair@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk">vicechair@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Secretary</b>	Pauline Holloway	<a href="mailto:secretary@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk">secretary@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Rod King	<a href="mailto:treasurer@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk">treasurer@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Membership</b>	Allen Sealby	<a href="mailto:membership@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk">membership@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Venues</b>	Marcia Dale	<a href="mailto:venues@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk">venues@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Group Coordinator</b>	Muriel Howarth	<a href="mailto:groups@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk">groups@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Social</b>	Lynn Bryant	<a href="mailto:socialevents@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk">socialevents@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>IT Support</b>	John Bower	<a href="mailto:it@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk">it@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Publicity</b>	Catherine Bower	<a href="mailto:publicity@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk">publicity@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Committee member</b>	Jim Owen	<a href="mailto:jim@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk">jim@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk</a>

## Non-Committee

<b>Speakers</b>	Christine Ballance	<a href="mailto:speakers@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk">speakers@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk</a>
<b>Newsletter</b>	Sue Mitchell	<a href="mailto:newsletter@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk">newsletter@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk</a>

