



Skelmersdale U3A  
**October Newsletter**



Our branch of the nationwide U3A is now in its seventh successful year. We are a small voluntary organization where retired and semi-retired people of all ages, meet for friendship, mutual interests and activities. Please read our newsletter and if you would like to join us, then come along to one of our Coffee Afternoons or visit our website

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

You will be made most welcome. If you have a relative or friend who you think may be interested, please show them this newsletter.

Contacts for further details of all events:-

Telephone 01695 729998

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**Report on U3A meeting Thursday 20 September 2018**

Our speaker today, Dr Alex McMinn has a distinguished U3A pedigree. Following retirement as a much travelled consultant haematologist with the WHO, he established the Ormskirk and Aughton U3A and is now their President. His theme "Understanding Tomorrows World" was wide ranging and thought provoking. Loneliness affects many older people, so Artificial Intelligence and Robotics are being brought together in the development of talking and moving Teddy Bears to provide company for the socially isolated. Anyone who knows a dementia sufferer will appreciate the possibilities.

Self driving cars have enormous possibilities for those who already use smart phones to use UBER and order hot freshly cooked meals to their homes. The hiring of self driving cars, rather than owning them, means that car parks will not be necessary, for having done our shopping or returning to the railway station we will simply call up another car. The number of collisions will be much reduced and insurance clerks made redundant. 3D Printers are already being used to produce false teeth and some bone replacements. Dr Alex suggested that Adidas, the sportswear manufacturer, is developing one to manufacture trainers. Four

people will produce as many trainers as 2,000 workers in China! Jobs that have been exported from Europe will return but in far fewer numbers.

The social implications of renting cars and putting taxi drivers, delivery drivers and many manufacturing and clerical workers out of work are going to be profound. Who will have the income to pay for the services and goods?

He mentioned the Royal Society “Brain Waves” Project which had developed headwear that enables the paralysed to control wheel chairs by their thoughts! Medical diagnosis will be by Artificial Intelligence and robot assisted operations more commonplace, for cutting instruments can be more precisely positioned in the brain by machine than by hand. The Human Genome Project will enable tailored medical treatments to suit our individual needs, while gene editing can eliminate hereditary diseases. Do we really want sex to be performed on a dish by people in white coats in a lab! Do we really want to wear smart clothing that monitors our health and feeds back our data to hospital computers that monitor us? Could the NHS Appointments system cope?

We concluded with questions and answers and were left pondering Dark Matter!

DWC 21 September 2018

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### **Beach Walk 9<sup>th</sup> August, Walking Group**

Today 14 of our group went to Formby. Considering the weather forecast was for rain, the weather was beautiful, just perfect for our walk.

Firstly we followed the Asparagus Trail. Asparagus has been grown in the sands since the 1800's. The path is well signposted with interesting information and amazing wood carvings.

Towards the end of the walk 3 of us went up the sand dunes to see the sea and the others went to look at the squirrels, [don't think they saw many]!

Then we all went to the Pinewoods pub where we had a refreshing drink and meal.

Thank you Ann and Brian, [think this one was Ann's idea though]! CS Aug. 2018

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## Local History Group

**TICKETS** There are 3 tickets at £2.50 still available for Wednesday 31 October at Wigan Museum, 41 Library Street for a truly Halloween experience; a talk of Dead and Buried by Charlie Guy.

We meet at the cafe near the museum at 12.30. The bus stop is 2 minutes away near the train stations. A good opportunity to flash your bus pass! See Debbie for further details.

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## Whist Group



Whist descends from a 16<sup>th</sup> century game of trump or ruff.

The game takes its name from the 17<sup>th</sup> century 'whist' or 'wist' meaning quiet, silent, attentive and is the root of the modern word 'wistful'.

Every alternative Monday morning, from 10-12, our group meets at Ann's house not only to play whist but also 'sevens'.

Nowadays formal dress is not required and it would not be surprising that although attentiveness is still required the gathering is anything but quiet and silent, and is a most enjoyable way to pass a Monday morning.

True to form our meeting includes refreshments...tea or coffee and Ann's delicious homemade cakes.

There is a nominal charge of 50p and new members will be most welcome to join us.





## A NATIONAL TRIBUTE

I'm sure I don't need to remind you that this year it is

100 hundred years since the end of the 1<sup>st</sup> World War which claimed so many lives.

Here in West Lancashire we will become part of the International Remembrance of the end of the War. All timings have got to be spot on and will be re-produced all over the World.

The programme is as follows: - (timing crucial)

**6am** Coronation Park Ormskirk (Band Stand)

A lone piper will pipe '**The Battle's o'er**'

**15.00** A Service of Remembrance Coronation Park

Ormskirk then up to the Parish Church

***We now move to the evening and Beacon Park***

**18.55** The last Post is played

**19.00** The Beacon is fired up ***It will be part of 1000 Beacons***

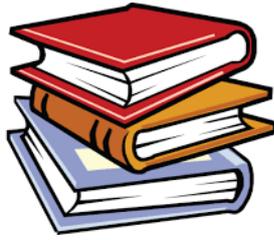
***throughout the Country lit simultaneously***

**19.05** 1000 Church Bells will be rung throughout the world

**19.10** 100 Town Criers throughout the Country will cry

**'For Peace Around the World'**

**Followed by refreshments in the Golf Club House**



## BOOK CLUB

The book club meets on the second Sunday of the month at the very nice cafe in Pimbo garden centre. On the 9th of September we met to discuss last month's book which was A Cat, A Hat and A Piece of String by Joanne Harris who also wrote Chocolate. It was a collection of short stories which were quite quirky but enjoyable as a light read.

We all had coffee and some had toast or tea cakes along with quite a discussion not all of it on the book.

The new book is The Blind Assassin by Margaret Atwood.

Our next meeting will be on the 14th October at 10.30am. If you would like to join us you would be welcome. If you don't have transport we could arrange to pick you up. JW

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Pantomime News,

Cinderella, Saturday, 5<sup>th</sup> January, 2019, 2.30pm at the Little Theatre, Southport.

Price £10. A £5 deposit [non-refundable] will secure your seat and the balance of £5 is to be paid by Friday, 23rd November.

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**New Members** This month we welcome four new members Irene, Elaine, Joan and Bernard.

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This year we hope to celebrate our 7<sup>th</sup> birthday together with our Lancashire Day Celebration on Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2pm at the Ecumenical Centre.

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