

While, technically, June is in the middle of the year, meteorologically it is the start of summer, with the prospect of many fine days and long lazy evenings ahead. With news of weather extremes coming at us from around the world – Italy and Somalia just two – we can only hope that the summer is warm and dry and that 40 degrees Centigrade remains an aberration. We all know that we, as an individual, as a nation and as a species, will have to focus on climate change and make the changes necessary to deal with this. However, for the moment let us hope that this summer is one we can enjoy without any extremes.



### **Forthcoming Trips**

Two spaces have become available on the trip to see the Yeoman of The Guards at the **Buxton Opera House** on August 5<sup>th</sup>. To join this party of music lovers please contact Edward Baskerville at [gebaskerville@btopenworld.com](mailto:gebaskerville@btopenworld.com)

There are still places on the trip to **Carden Park Hotel** on June 16<sup>th</sup> when our inspirational May speaker, Grant Ford, will give a guided walk around the Sculpture Garden he has curated. The cost is £20 for transport, the full talk and refreshments.



A trip has been arranged to the Roman Vineyard at **Wroxeter** on July 11<sup>th</sup>. The cost is £45 which includes refreshments, lunch and a tutored wine tasting.

For more information and/or to book a place on either of these trips, please contact Raye Hurst at [rayewirral@aol.com](mailto:rayewirral@aol.com)

If you love **classical music**, then the indefatigable Edward Baskerville is planning one (or more!) to either (or both!) the Royal Liverpool Philharmonic or the Halle Orchestra in the autumn. Please do look out for a member's email where he will set out details of some of the concerts and the programmes available.

# MONTHLY MEETING

Tarporley Community Centre.

**Thursday 20<sup>th</sup> June 2023**

Doors open at **9.45 am** for refreshments.

The meeting begins about **10.15 am** with announcements.

The talk starts at **10.30 am**.

## **Cheshire's Historic Houses with**

# **Tony Bostock**

Tony Bostock takes a virtual tour around some of the historic houses of the Cheshire gentry. He explores some of their treasures and explains why the county was once known as 'The seed pot of gentility'.

He is a keen local historian, has written many books on Cheshire History and is a regular contributor to the Annual Cheshire History Journal.

## History Matters Group

On 3<sup>rd</sup> May and blessed with beautiful weather 28 members of the History Matters Group visited Dorfold Hall near Nantwich home of the Roundell family. (*Photos of group outside the house by Don Rickard*)



The estate was bought by Sir Roger Wilbraham in 1603 and the present house was built in 1616 when the estate had passed to his younger brother Ralph.

The History group visited Dorfold Hall in 2017 when the current owners, Charles and Candice Roundell's parents were living in the main house. Since then, Charles and Candice have done a huge amount of work transforming the stables and outbuildings to become an impressive wedding venue. Charles is a collector of modern art and throughout the Hall and the buildings in the grounds there is a blend of modern and old.



We were shown around not only the rooms of the Jacobean house which wedding guests are allowed to use but also some of the guest accommodation. (*Photo of bedroom by Don Rickard*)





## Book Group 1

### Love at War by Sandra Howard

Sandra Howard was a 'supermodel' in the 1960's and has also enjoyed life in the political milieu as the wife of the former Conservative leader Michael Howard. She is the author of 6 previous well-received books in the genre of 'women's fiction', drawing on her experiences in the glamorous world of politics, fashion and tangled relationships – she has been married four times!



Love at War was published in 2022 and is a change in style. She was given a file of wartime letters by the son of a couple caught up in the confusion of WW2 and their own changing passions. With his permission she then wrote a fictionalised account of those years.

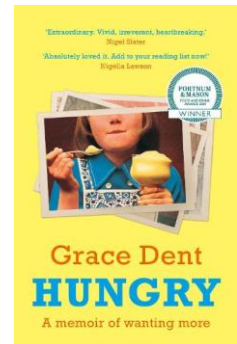
Laura, a young student who has studies in pre-war Germany, decides, based on a few days of holiday passion with Harry, to follow him to East Africa, where he has been sent as a forestry officer and then enlists in the army. Despite her feelings for Harry, she has an affair in Cairo with a war correspondent she met on the boat. When finally getting to Uganda she must marry Harry within hours to comply with army regulations, and then travels with him to Kenya. Despite being chronically short of money, she always managed to find a job and lodgings, the latter often quite primitive. She meets some of the people involved in the notorious 'Happy Valley' set, and while Harry is away ends up being drugged and sexually assaulted, an event that come as quite a shock to her, and the reader. Harry, at first besotted with Laura, finds that jealousy corrodes his affection for her. Two sons are born, but the death of one puts huge strain on the relationship. Back in England, Harry's long absences for work slowly erode the marriage, and the book ends with her meeting an old admirer, much damaged by the war. What happens then? – we are not told.

The group agreed that, despite the potential of the story, Sandra Howard did not manage to bring the characters to life. Laura just didn't rise above the rather pedestrian writing style and some members found her positively unsympathetic. There was also the question of what was true and what was fiction, did such an assault happen when Laura constantly stressed in the book that she must tell no one about it?

One of the Book Club members is an acquaintance of Sandra Howard and is even referenced by her in the book's acknowledgements. However even he agreed that perhaps this book was not her best and that the constraints of having to work with real events did not allow her literary imagination to flourish.

## Book Group 2 Hungry by Grace Dent

Food writer and restaurant critic Grace Dent looks at the changing food habits of the nation, from the 'beige' foods of earlier years to the many cuisines that we can experience today. Her story of always being hungry as a child celebrates chip butties and pineapple and cheese hedgehogs, as well as all that is available today. A journey that so many of us have been on and will recognise.



## Family History Group

We are a small but enthusiastic group who want to discover more about our roots. Within the group there are varying levels of expertise and true to the u3a ethos those with more experience are happy to help others who may be just beginning their research. We might have one foot firmly planted in the past but we make full use of modern technology to build our family trees and learn more about our ancestors. As well as the obvious websites such as [findmypast.co.uk](http://findmypast.co.uk) and [ancestry.co.uk](http://ancestry.co.uk) ("like Facebook for dead people" as someone once put it), there are a vast number of genealogical resources available online but knowing how to



navigate and make the best use of them can be confusing and this is something we try to help each other with. Of course, hard-copy sources such as parish records and county archives are still vitally important but these are being digitised at an ever-increasing rate and it would be unusual nowadays to find a church which still retains its records in situ.

There is then the question of what to do with all the information we unearth. For some the focus is on the data itself - the hard facts and figures - and how best to organise and present them. To this end one of our members has developed an impressive web-based database. For others the fascination lies not only in creating a family tree but in placing their ancestors in their historical, social and geographical context and often this can be best achieved by writing everything up as a narrative. Either approach is enhanced by the addition of old family letters and photos and other ephemera if one is lucky enough to have them. Both approaches are equally worthwhile and rewarding; a combination of the two even more so.

We meet at TCC on the first Thursday of the month. We try to focus on a particular topic each time - in recent meetings we have looked at: the information to be found in the censuses, DNA testing, what we can learn from old photographs and how to decipher handwritten documents. New members are always welcome. Please contact [judithschofield@icloud.com](mailto:judithschofield@icloud.com)

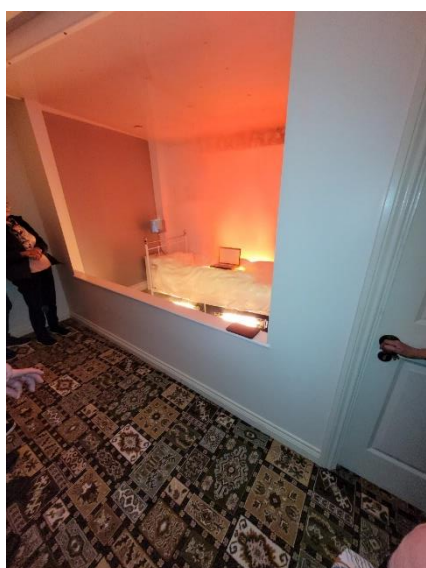
## Report on u3a visit to Safety Central, Lymm

On Wednesday 17 May we visited Cheshire Fire and Rescue's purpose- built venue at Lymm for a two-and-a-half hour guided tour with detailed information and instruction on safety.

It is an impressive building with mock ups including the interior of a house, the interior of a court room, police station and cell, and the outside of a street and railway line.

There are a lot of visits by schools and we could well appreciate how worthwhile those visits must be. The information we received included internet safety as well as safety in the home. Apparently 28,000 house fires nationally each year are caused by electrical faults, accidents or misuse of electrical equipment. There was an impressive demonstration of how a fire started from the heat of a laptop being left on a bed – my photograph doesn't do it justice.

A thank you to our member Peter Schofield who made us aware of Safety Central and their willingness to give community groups their time. The two people who led the tour were volunteers. We all learned from the experience, and it was an enjoyable and very informative afternoon.





## Walking group

This beautiful picture captures a lovely moment from a walk by the Strollers around Pickmere in May. With the coming of fine weather there will be more chances to enjoy the local scenery in good company.

There are currently four walking groups, Strollers, Trotters, Midway Walkers and Striders that cater for all levels of fitness. However, please be aware that they are all very heavily subscribed and, should you wish to join, you **must** contact the respective leaders to make sure of the current position.



If you prefer to walk with your canine companion there is a dog walking group for you as well, but again, please do contact the leader for the latest advice.

All contact names and numbers can be found on the u3a website at <https://u3asites.org.uk/tarporley>

## Stop Press

To celebrate the summer months a new “**Summer Walking Group**” has been formed. It will run from June until the end of September, walking on a Monday morning starting at 10.00am. Walks will be at a leisurely pace, covering between 4 to 6 miles and will be no more than a 25-minute drive from Tarporley.

They are being organised by Kim Harding and if you would like to join, or find out more about them, do contact her at [khhard@aol.com](mailto:khhard@aol.com)

## Nature Group

ED - On May 4<sup>th</sup> the Nature Group went on a guided walk round the Gowy Meadows, led by Steve Holmes. He sent a long, very interesting and detailed report which proved difficult to precis for the Newsletter. The wealth of wildlife they encountered was fascinating and the report illustrated how a walk can be transformed into a wonderful lesson with the right leader. Please do read the report which is attached separately and if you are interested in finding out more, please contact [paul.bujac@gmail.com](mailto:paul.bujac@gmail.com)



## Science Group

The Science Group continued to look at alternative energy sources. In the first half Andrew Needham looked at both the potential and the problems of Hydrogen as a viable alternative. This could include the transportation of Liquid Organic Hydrogen by sea on a regular basis from Morocco, where it is generated from solar and wind power. This would be an alternative to a long and extremely expensive undersea electric cable from Morocco that is being considered, and which could potentially supply 7% of the UK's energy requirements. There are also experiments being carried out in Chile where wind power is used to combine hydrogen and carbon dioxide to make synthetic petrol. Such petrol can be used in existing car engines meaning a change to a carbon neutral fuel will be cheaper. What is clear is that there is a huge amount of research throughout the world working on this problem.



In the second half Don Igoe stimulated a lively discussion around the phrase “Follow the Science” This phrase was used extensively during the pandemic and there is some suggestion that it has become a handy hook to enable politicians to justify their policies. Another phrase that is often overused is “The science is settled” again suggesting a certainty which might not be correct. In both cases, scientific research and debate needs to be free of constraints so that the path forward can be followed in all directions, but which also can lead to many false starts. Two examples looked at were the value of wearing masks to reduce respiratory viral infection and the many theories being promulgated about the causes and solutions to climate change.



The Science group welcomes anyone with an interest in scientific topics, you do not need a science degree or even a chemistry ‘O’ level! The topics covered are varied and are intended to stimulate discussion. The next meeting will look at the development of weight loss drugs and the importance of arts as well as sciences in a modern curriculum.

## Capturing the Moment

The Digital Photography Group has been concentrating on Architectural subjects this month. Here are some of their images.







## Theatre in the Community

**Tarvin Community Centre** has always had a bold approach when offering drama. They are delighted to be able to invite you to the following production:

### **The Extraordinary Time-Travelling Adventures of Baron Munchausen**

Friday June 9<sup>th</sup> at 6.00pm

Tickets £8 and £6 (under 12s) from Tarvin Post Office, on the door or at

[www.ticketsource.co.uk/cheshireruraltouringarts](http://www.ticketsource.co.uk/cheshireruraltouringarts)



This show was a winner of the Best Children's Show and the Manchester Fringe. It is interactive, where the audience challenge the three actors to tell tall tales – think Jackanory twinned with Whose Line is it Anyway! A great children's show for all ages from 6+ to 106. Bring the grandchildren.

Please note that the performance of **The Shoddy Detective** at Tarvin, which was postponed due to cast illness and will now take place on Friday June 2<sup>nd</sup>. If you have tickets for the original date, they will be honoured, and tickets will be on sale on the door.

### **Night at the Flicks**

Community based film shows are increasingly popular, particularly among older age groups. Here are some forthcoming shows available.

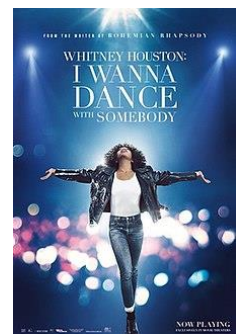
#### **Tarporley Community Centre**

June 16<sup>th</sup> at 7.30 pm

#### **Whitney Houston - I wanna dace with somebody**

The performance starts at 7.30 pm

( My apologies to Tarporley Community Centre – this film was advertised in the May issue by mistake)



#### **Tarvin Community Centre**

Friday June 30<sup>th</sup>

**Super Mario Brothers** at 6.00pm

Tickets £3 and £4 on the door.



#### **The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry**

8.00 pm

Tickets £5 on the door.



Film shows are also available on occasions at the Jesse Hughes Hall in Eaton and in Kelsall. Please go to their respective websites for more information.





# TARPORLEY WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL OPEN EVENING



## WHEN

**Thursday, 8th June, 2023**  
**5pm - 8pm**

## WHERE

**Countess of Chester at  
Tarporley War Memorial  
Hospital**

**14 Park Road, Tarporley, Cheshire, CW6 0AP**



**TARPORLEY**  
WAR MEMORIAL HOSPITAL TRUST  
Registered Charity Number: 700336

## Community Event

An opportunity to find out more about the latest service developments at Tarporley Hospital and the role of TWMH Trust in enhancing the provision of health and social care services for the local community.

Light refreshments will be provided.

## Meet the Teams

Hear from Countess of Chester Hospital NHS Foundation Trust about their latest plans for service developments.

Talk to TWMH Trustees and your local MP about healthcare priorities and ways the charity can best support services.

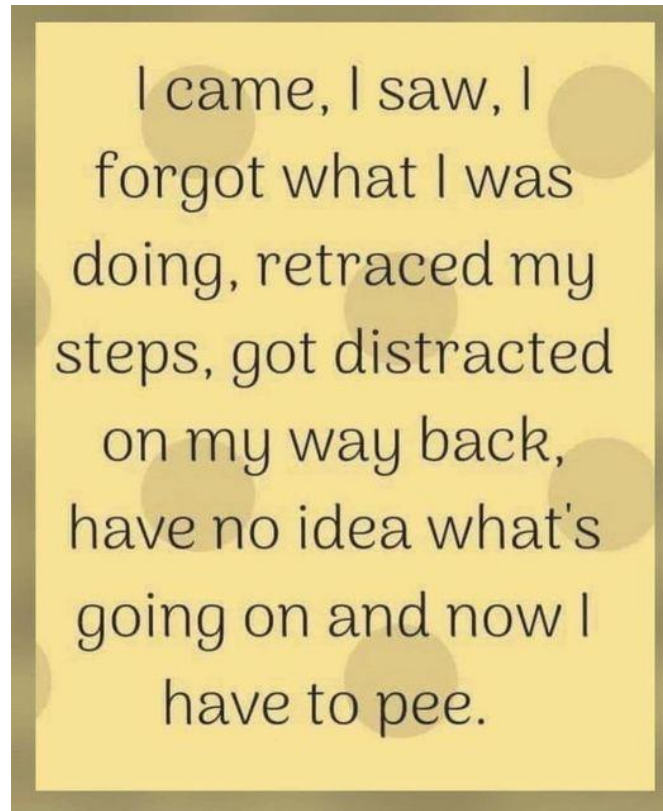
Meet the teams providing services on site and within your local community.

## RSVP

Space will be limited. If you would like to join us, please get in touch to reserve your place on 07395 798482 or [info@twmh.org.uk](mailto:info@twmh.org.uk)



This scurrilous piece of frippery obviously does not apply to u3a members whose brains are constantly stimulated by new ideas and experiences and have no time to indulge in dashing to the loo!



**Just a brief word about the images in the Newsletter. They are sent with the participants agreement but are intended for inclusion in the Newsletter only. Please do not send images of u3a individuals in the Newsletter to other public, digital spaces.**

**To respond, or contact any Committee member please phone the Secretary, Liz Carter, on 01829 732863 or email [Tarporleyu3a@outlook.com](mailto:Tarporleyu3a@outlook.com)**

**For contributions about your group's activities, please get in touch with the editor at [bandshardacre@btinternet.com](mailto:bandshardacre@btinternet.com)**

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