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# Welcome to our Summer Newsletter

Throughout the last few months, we have been busy, we have had our AGM, celebrated u3a Day and several groups have begun meeting again. We also have a couple of new groups meeting. Keep an eye out for an email from our chairman, Alan, with news of our first meeting at the Cricket Club.

Thanks to those who responded with suggestions for the website; there is now an events page detailing future group meetings and a Members' Area which enables members to access their information and make changes if necessary. Members will receive more details by email.

## **AGM**

The AGM was held on Zoom on 4<sup>th</sup> June at 10:30am. As members had been asked to vote by email beforehand all the business was concluded quickly. If anyone requires the details of these votes please contact Alan, our Chair.

## U3a Day

On June 2<sup>nd</sup> members of Wigan u3a Day were seen all around the town.

Several group leaders organised activities which made us more visible to the people of the town. The Urban Sketchers went on a sketch trail drawing several grade 2 listed doorways, the Photowalks Group held their inaugural event and walked along the canal from Trencherfield Mill taking photos along the way, Coffee and Chat also held their first meeting at the Royal Oak where they were accompanied by members of the Ukulele Group (whose photograph was used by the National Office to open their slideshow of events around the country) and the Bowling Group met up at the Boar's Head in Standish.

The day culminated with a gathering at the Cricket Club where the Gardening Club held a plant sale and the cycling group were represented. The Treasurer and the Membership Secretary were kept busy as more than twenty new members signed up with more following later.



## Group News

### Hill Walking

A lot of our regular walkers were unavailable for this walk but 4 of us managed to get out (including one new member). Good weather and a pleasant walk. Probably the main points of interest were the Cove, the Limestone Pave at the top of the Cove, and the Tarn. Have a look at the photos to get a better idea of the walk. Après walk refreshments were taken at 'The Buck Inn'. 9.25 miles and a mere 800 ft of climbing.



### Photography Group

Finally! After months of not being able to chat except on zoom calls and through the group Facebook page, it's great being able to come back to the real world again. It was a pleasure to see those members who - not discouraged by the threat of rain - made it to our outdoor session in Haigh Hall Walled Gardens at the start of July. Fortunately, it did stay dry while we completed a leisurely stroll through the kitchen garden and ornamental garden areas and back up the main drive; plus as a bonus then turned positively sunny for a coffee and chat in the Courtyard area.

Further similar sessions to follow, however with a move to a new calendar slot. This will now be on the morning of the **Fourth Monday of the month**, so 26 July and 23 August for the next two dates. Further details of venues to follow. Hopefully we should be OK to meet indoors again beyond these.



## Photo Scavenger Hunt

This is a challenge that we've started in the photography group, during the summer, for a bit of fun. You get a rather random list of seven subjects to attempt to find and snap in the weeks between meetings. Nothing technical, just any image that fits the listed themes. Whoever is judged to submit the best set gets to choose the subjects for the next month. Examples here are for 'Rainbow', 'Bubbles' and 'Something Strong' – we do get a lot of variety in interpretations!



If anyone else fancies joining this challenge – here's the list that has been set for July. If you want more information, or to submit your entries then please mail me at [photography@u3awigan.co.uk](mailto:photography@u3awigan.co.uk)

- 1 a pie
- 2 urban skyline
3. made of glass
- 4 something you don't often see these days ...
- 5 an eye
- 6 a splash of purple
- 7 something spiky

Entries by last day of July.

## Cryptic Crosswords and Word Play – New Group

I asked in the spring newsletter if there was any interest in a new group for enthusiasts for cryptic crosswords and quite a few people responded positively to this. The plan would be to get together over coffee and cake, to jointly tackle a selected puzzle via brainstorming and general crossword chat. Perhaps also combining this with a short quiz or a clue setting challenge too. We can work out the format as we go.

All levels of crossword enthusiasts are welcome. If you are a novice, or if cryptic crosswords are just something you've always fancied trying and want to give it a go here, then I have some notes and exercises available as a warm up, to get more familiar with the different types of clues used by cryptic setters. If on the other hand you are a cryptic crossword guru, then your involvement would be much appreciated to give the rest of us a bit of help.

Provisionally this would be in the annexe to Caffè Rosso on Wigan Lane – so the coffee and cakes (or bacon butties) are suitably tempting too – to meet monthly, hopefully to start in late August. I do however first need to get a better idea of possible numbers before I can confirm this.

If interested, therefore, please do drop me an email to [crossword@u3awigan.co.uk](mailto:crossword@u3awigan.co.uk) I'd appreciate info on what crosswords you currently tackle; whether the learning notes are something you'd like me to send; and also as dates are still to be arranged if there are any mornings when you would NOT be able to come along. Any further thoughts and suggestions also welcomed.

In the meantime, here's a bit of a word-centred quiz, which might appeal to members reading this section of the newsletter ...

1. What one word can mean a container for liquids, a shade of green or a measure of courage?
2. A blockbusters question - what TTCCH is a phrase for a long period of time?
3. Can you find a word to fit into this series of letters? \_ \_ \_ \_ G D O \_ \_ \_ (10)
4. Which word can go after Black, Hard and Star to make three other words?
5. Who or what are your 'nibblings'?
- 6.

Answers at the end of the newsletter.

## Urban Sketching

The Urbansketching Group have continued to meet weekly on Wednesday mornings. After sketching, while chatting in the cafe or the pub, we have a 'throwdown' where members lay out their sketches on the table or floor. This is the time when we share ideas and tips on how to improve our sketches. Recently, just to make the rest of us jealous, members who are on holiday have been joining in the throwdown via our WhatsApp Group.



## Walking Group 1<sup>st</sup> July 2021



Following our first walk since lock down, at The Three Sisters, when nineteen walkers were in attendance, thirteen of us decided to try a walk starting from the monument at Lathom Hall, taking in The Alms-houses and Cromwell's Stone. The weather was on our side and we enjoyed a leisurely five-mile stroll around the surrounding countryside, where we encountered a heron, a horse and a squirrel, (not at the same time!). We had a short break by the lake at the picnic area, and a good time was had by all.

Answers:

1. Bottle- a bottle of pop, bottle green, losing your bottle.
2. Till the cows come home
3. Wrongdoing
4. Board- blackboard, hardboard, starboard
5. The children of your siblings i.e., your nieces and nephews

**u3a** Wigan

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