

# Wirral U3A

October 2016

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



## U3A Strollers in Burton Manor gardens

Our September walk took us through Burton Woods with rain dripping from overhead and the smell of bonfires from adjacent gardens. But it was dry underfoot with just a few soggy patches. Despite being up for sale Burton Manor grounds are still open to the public daily from 10 am. About 40 volunteers maintain the grounds. Step through the archway in the photo along a path which runs down to the icehouse before returning to the main entrance. If you ever consider planting Virginia Creeper against your house take a look at the manor and you may change your mind. No need for widow cleaners here now; most windows have been obscured by this rampant climber. Sadly the café no longer functions.

## Chairman's message

Autumn is on its way and this simple recipe is an excellent way to make use of the pumpkin centre which has been scraped out to make a lantern.

### Ingredients

Flaky centre of pumpkin minus seeds and stringy bits

4 oz butter

2 peeled and chopped onions

Pinch each of nutmeg and cayenne pepper

Salt and pepper

3 pints of chicken stock

Sherry

### Method

Cook onions in butter but not till they brown then add the rest of the ingredients to the pan and cook 40 minutes or until the pumpkin is soft. Liquidize then add a splash of sherry to taste. Add more seasoning if required.



## Group News

**Craft** group :- next meetings 12<sup>th</sup> October and 26<sup>th</sup> October

**Sunday Lunch** group :- Next meeting October 30<sup>th</sup> at Grove House Hotel, Wallasey, 12: for 12:30. June Kerr has resumed leadership of this group.

**Creative Writing** group has started.

**Philosophy** :-first Wednesday of each month.

7 members from Wirral and Oxton and Prenton U3As attended our last meeting, a good number for sharing thoughts and ideas. Since Philosophy can become very abstract and matters under discussion seldom arrive at any clearly defined conclusion I try, whenever possible, to keep our deliberations anchored in personal experience.

Last meeting we looked at the philosophy of evil. Once we confined the issue to actual human behaviour it illuminated some rather dark and obscure corners. Whilst condemning the actions of mass murderers we ignore the society which regularly and consistently produces such people.

Next meeting we discuss the philosophy of meaning - a minefield.

Ultimately it brings us to the meaning of life. By what meanings do we live? Should we impose our meanings on the lives of others? Is it possible to arrive at a meaning in which all can truly share? So far we have failed but as humanity evolves we can keep on trying. New members welcome. So why not join us and help to get things sorted?

**Strollers** :- see cover pages for news of this group. We meet once a month at 11 am for a 1 hour stroll. Walk information is posted on the website a week beforehand. You can also give your details to receive a text or email reminder. New members welcome.

### **Walkers**

We have ventured further afield recently. In August we walked from Christleton over the canal and railway to the Rake and Pikel pub at Huntingdon. Because there were no takers for the September walk from Loggerheads to Maeshafn we are going to try again on October 10<sup>th</sup>. The autumn tints in this region are too gorgeous to miss.

### **Invitations to join other U3A activities**

**Chester U3A Racketball** group welcomes new members every Monday 2 pm at Chester Northgate Arena. Free parking.

**Heswall U3A Barn dancing** Group welcomes new members at St Michael's Church Hall alternate Fridays beginning September 9<sup>th</sup>.

### **Outings**

On Thursday September 1<sup>st</sup> some of our members visited the tower of Liverpool Anglican cathedral on one of the select summer evening openings to enable visitors to watch the sunset and enjoy the city lights.

We picked a night when the bell tower and ringing chambers were open to the public. You can talk to the ringers and have a go on the bell simulator. This was not as easy to use as expected.

The 156 steps to the top are quite a challenge for the unfit but the views are magnificent. As we stepped out onto the roof we noticed a delightful pink glow in the sky. We only had a few minutes to pick out landmarks like Blackpool Tower but we were helped by the fact that it was illuminated. Then the glow faded away.

### **Network news**

Heswall Science day is back as part of the Wirral Arts festival. Organised by Rotary and sponsored by Heswall U3A. Starts 9:30 am Heswall hall on Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October. Each lecture costs £1.

- Value of dust, dirt and debris in Forensic science
- What to do with 180,000 computers
- Lasers
- An introduction to rare Earth Elements

## Free Workshop – Different approaches to learning

Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> October 10.30am – 4.00 at Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool led by Gill Russell, Jenny Carley and the NW Regional Planning Team

10:30 - Refreshments and registration

10.50 - Welcome and Introduction

11.00 – Sean Orford: *a light-hearted look at “The ‘Psychology’ of learning” followed by question time*

12.15 - Lunch –this is not provided

Afternoon workshop sessions:

1.15 – 2.00 Session One

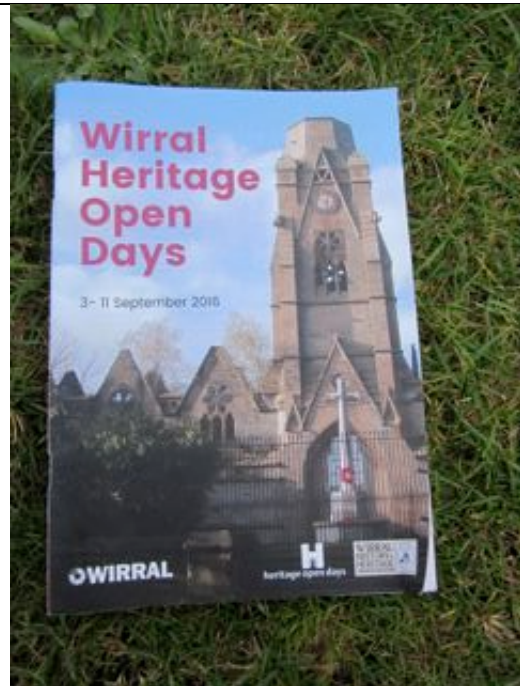
2.00 – 2.24 Session Two

2.45 – 3.30 Session Three

3.30 – Plenary

Registration details and further information can be found on the NW website [www.u3a.org.uk/north-west](http://www.u3a.org.uk/north-west) or by contacting Joe O’Rourke [u3ajoe@gmail.com](mailto:u3ajoe@gmail.com)

Please register by 10<sup>th</sup> October.



We came across these 2 characters when visiting Birkenhead High School air-raid shelters. Check out [www.cheshirehomeguard.co.uk](http://www.cheshirehomeguard.co.uk)

Staff at the school laid on extravagantly tasty refreshments- what a contrast to the week’s rations displayed by the re-enactment team.



Another cuppa at St James church where the band had our feet tapping in the aisles and we caught a quick glimpse of Birkenhead's MP Frank Field.



From the pie shop in New Ferry we headed for a guided tour of Bromborough Pool. Here is the helping hands sculpture outside the Memorial Hall.



Man's best friend?  
Apparently there were 7,227 hospital admissions last year for dog bites. Over the past decade admissions have increased by 76%!

Logic problem – Derek tried this out on the maths group.  
Imagine 3 boxes, one labelled apples, another oranges and the 3<sup>rd</sup> apples and oranges. But the labels have been swapped around. You can pick one fruit from one box only. This should enable you to match the labels correctly to the right fruit. I can't suss this out despite knowing the answer!



## Bring me sunshine!

Libraries and supermarkets stock a free paper called All Together Now which has articles about disabilities and health from which I have gleaned the following.

moderate exposure to the sun can prevent skin cancer. It's sunburn that are suggests that vitamin D for most people is the Sun then low sun exposure results in higher cholesterol levels.



Apparently regular but intermittent exposure and risky. New research also D levels and cholesterol levels biggest contributor of Vitamin

### Quiz

How much attention were you paying during our recent talk on pottery?

Where and when would Coarse ware be used?

Where and when would Fine Ware be used?

For what was a Mortarium the precursor?

What was a Pipkin?

Why was the Tyg ideal for celebrations?

How much liquid did the Pinchguts hold?

And the Gullymouth?

And a Long Tom?

Where would you keep your Witch Bottle?

How was the Pottery Curfew used?

Can you put these in chronological order?

Slip ware: Potter's Wheel: Beaker pottery: Face jugs: Samian ware



### Did you know?

Birds nostrils are in their beak. If they swallow a huge fish for example they will not choke to death.

Young swallows begin migration a month after the adults. They have a genetically inherited map and a built in compass tuned to earth's magnetic field.

Waxwings are so named because the tail and wing tips look like they've been dipped in sealing wax.

## Language groups Workshop

The network is organising this at Heswall Hall on the 21<sup>st</sup> October 2016  
It runs 10:30- 16:00. You do not need to be a group leader to benefit from this event.

### Let there be Light

Also gleaned from All Together Now are the 3 main types of energy saving light bulbs.

CFLs- compact fluorescent lamps- are the most common. Quick start CFL bulbs reach full brightness in 30 seconds so are ideal for bathrooms, halls and stairways.

Halogen are the cheapest but the least energy efficient and durable

LEDs-light emitting diodes are the most expensive but also the most energy efficient and the most durable.

Lumens denotes how bright. Use at least 1200 for staircases and landings. Large rooms need a minimum 1200, smaller rooms 600-700 with additional lamps for reading. Lights under cupboards in kitchens could be 250 lumens.

In unheated places use halogen or LED bulbs. Dimmers work best on halogen bulbs. Most LEDs and CFLs are not dimmable. Most CFL bulbs cannot currently be used with timers or photocell circuits.

### Answers

Coarse ware was used for food preparation and cooking.

Fine ware was table ware

The Mortarium was the precursor of the food mixer.

The Pipkin was a pan with a lip for pouring. It often had a hollow handle to enable a piece of wood to be used when removing the pan from the fire.

Because it had 2 handles the Tyg was ideal for passing drink around at a party. The Tyg originated in Kent.

Pinch guts held 4 pints

Gullymouth held 5½ pints

Long Tom held 2 gallons

You buried your Witch Bottle at a point where you felt the Witch might enter your home.

The Pottery Curfew was placed over the fire to douse it by cutting off the air supply. Hopefully the embers would smoulder till morning.

Beaker pottery: Potter's Wheel and Samian Ware: Face Jugs: Slipware



U3A Strollers at the Liverpool's  
National Wildflower Centre  
August 2016



Sadly rain began just as we'd finished walking from Broad Green station to Court Hey Park which hosts the Wildflower centre. For a few minutes we toured the site in drizzle admiring imaginative scarecrows and giant models of garden fauna.. But as the rain fell more steadily we retreated indoors.

We decided for our next visit to go earlier in the season to catch spring and early summer flowers.

Another of our summer strolls took us from Shotwick church along an ancient route over to Deeside.

Next a new multi-use path alongside the A550 returned us northwards to the A5177. Wildflowers were abundant on this section of the walk.

From here in a world that hadn't changed for centuries we walked over 3 small fields and Shotwick Brook back to the church whose tower had been our landmark throughout the walk.

Thanks to contributors Diane Adams and Brian Gill  
*Wirral U3A is a registered charity No.1042342*



