



WIRRAL U3A



LEFT: NEW MEMBERS COFFEE MORNING. ABOVE: VALENTINE DAY ITEMS. SEE BACK PAGE FOR DETAILS

New members coffee morning

On Monday 30th January we held a coffee morning at the Williamson Art Gallery for our new members. During the morning members had an opportunity to meet each other in a convivial atmosphere enhanced by coffee and cake.

The aims of U3A were outlined by myself then people were asked what

they wanted from their U3A. 5 new groups were proposed and discussed in some detail.

What new members can do for their U3A was explored and 2 volunteers came forward to offer their services on the committee.

Other proposals included a new members pack and an occasional

change to a more informal seating arrangement. Emailing newsletters was also suggested.

28 people attended this most productive session which I hope will become an annual event. All proposals are in process of being evaluated and actioned.

Diane Adams



AUCTIONEERING TALK



SUNDAY LUNCH-YUMMY!



THE HEALTHY OPTION

Message from Groups Co-ordinator
Dorothy Higginbottom.

Several groups have vacancies.
Please contact me if there is a
subject which interests you that is
not represented or for details of
existing groups

Group	Leader	Meeting time	Location
Astronomy	David Moore	1 st Thursday 2 pm	Hoylelake
Book group	Val Thorns This evening group will merge with the daytime group		
Craft	Diane Adams	2 nd & 4 th Wednesdays	Upton
Creative writing	Monica Price	4 th Tuesday	Oxton
French	Janet Belton	Alternate Fridays 10 am	Moreton
Local History	Betty Nesbitt	3 rd Thursday 1pm	Oxton
Maths for Fun	Derek Adams	3 rd Thursday 10 am	Upton
Music Appreciation	Janet Belton	1 st Thursday 10 am	Moreton
Philosophy	Brian Gill	1 st Wednesday	Oxton
Science	Mary Green	2 nd Friday 2 pm	Birkenhead
Scrabble	Beryl Keggan	3 rd Monday 2 pm	West Kirby
Sunday Lunch	June Kerr	Sunday at 1pm. Varies monthly	Grove House Hotel Wallasey
Strollers	Margaret Elston	4 th Monday 11 am	Meet at start of walk
Topical Discussion	Shirley Taylor	2 nd Wednesday 10 am	West Kirby
Walking	Margaret Elston	2 nd Monday 10 am	Meet at start of walk
Wine Appreciation	Sue Shaw	3 rd Wednesday 2 pm	Newton Village Hall £6 per session

N.B, Monday groups can be affected by Bank Holidays and 5 Monday month. In such cases Walking and Strollers move to 1st and 3rd Monday.

New groups

Book group

The existing book group which meets in the evening will amalgamate with this proposed daytime group. 6 have signed up already.

Buddies is designed for those seeking company for outings. Contact Lin Clough if you have an idea for an cinema/theatre visit etc which you think others may wish to attend with you. So far 6 have expressed an interest in this venture.

Jazz Appreciation is looking for more members before it can be launched.

Midweek Lunch group needs a few more interested parties before it can be launched. So far 4 have expressed an interest.

Poetry group :- Leader Arthur Maltby has 4 enrolled to date. Venue to be arranged.

Practical Art: - Leader I Roberts. 1st meeting 28th February in Claughton village at 2 pm.

Did you know the average U3A has 384 members. Reigate & Redhill U3A decided to survey their members to discover how their clientele ranked various aspects of U3A. See table below for results.

<i>Groups the most important element</i>	96%	<i>Holidays very important</i>	38%
<i>Monthly meeting the most important element</i>	81%	<i>Regional study days very important</i>	35%
<i>Outings very important</i>	68%	<i>Other regional events very important</i>	13%
<i>Social events very important</i>	63%	<i>National events very important</i>	7%



SUNDAY LUNCHERS

Group news

Science :- Leader Mary Green

Did you know that the banking world with its concept of credit and debit gave Benjamin Franklin the idea of positive and negative charges which enabled him to formulate the idea of electrical circuits.

Scientists began realizing some creatures like the torpedo fish emitted an electrical discharge and that the amount of electricity varied. By constructing an artificial torpedo fish out of different metals the Italian scientist Volta generated a constant current and inadvertently created a battery. He concluded the atoms in the metals had electric charges. A flow of electrons became an electric current.

[Information culled from the DVD we watched last meeting]

Strollers:-Leader Margaret Elston

Starting from Port Sunlight's Gladstone theatre we walked part way along what was once Lever's private railway and is now a multi-use track. At Spital dam an access point allowed us to follow the River Dibbin up to and through the twin tunnel supporting the Chester - Birkenhead railway embankment. Then the climb up to the former Spital tip now known locally as the Trim Trail. The exercise structures are long gone, perhaps a victim of health and safety regulations. Emerging opposite Spital station we found a quiet route back to the multi-use track.

“Better no food for 3 days than no tea for a day” Chinese proverb.

You can see what a delightful cafe we found. The menu mentioned Dutch and Portuguese tea importers in the late 16th century. With reduced taxation in the 19th century tea became the poor man's drink. India, Kenya and Sri Lanka are the main suppliers. The UK imports more tea than the rest of Europe and North America combined. The daily intake is reckoned to number 160 million cuppas!

STROLLERS



EN ROUTE TO THE TRIM TRAIL



THE TRIM TRAIL



THE TEA STOP



Regional & National News

For the 35% of you who according to latest research will read this page here is a repeat of the North-West Summer School details with added detail of minibus transport to the venue near Penrith- 29th August-1st September

Courses include

ABC of Cities

About beauty

Architecture

Digital digging for armchair archaeologists

Geology of the Lake District

Medicine in the 21st century

Painting with stitches

Recorder playing

Russian and Soviet culture

Science is for everyone

Ukulele for beginners.

Cost- residential £275.00

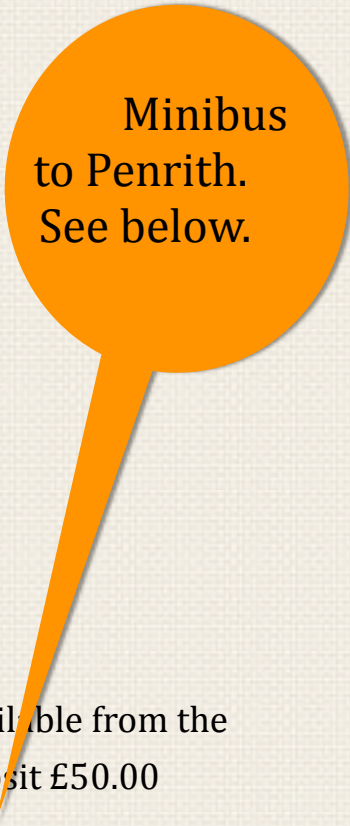
£155.00 non residents.

£35.00 discount if booking by 31st March. Booking forms available from the Northwest region website. www.u3a.org.uk/north-west. Deposit £50.00

A comfortable 16 seater minibus and driver costing £450 will leave from Bromborough Civic Centre CP. A £10 deposit will secure you a place. Contact details on notice board or from the editor. Cost is for journey both ways, split between passengers. All seats forward facing.

The 13% of you interested in events in other regions keep reading

<i>Harpur Adams summer school</i>	<i>17th-20th July</i>
<i>Science at Nottingham</i>	<i>7th-10th August</i>
Cirencester Summer school	<i>14th-17th August</i>
Cirencester Summer school	<i>11th-14th September</i>



Minibus
to Penrith.
See below.

Llandudno coach excursion - Friday 2nd June

I took these photos when the walking group from my previous U3A once stayed 2 nights at Llandudno. On the outward bound day most of the group explored the prom, pier and its surroundings whilst I reccied a country walk for half day Sunday. Next day the intrepid amongst us scaled the Great Orme by a route that frightened me to death as I don't like heights and sheer drops. En route we passed the tramway base station and Haulfre gardens.

Staying behind to catch up on sleep whilst the rest of the party went to the theatre I was awakened by the fire alarm but couldn't get any of the nearby fire exits open as the hotel was clad in scaffolding. By the time I reached downstairs the panic was over- whatever had triggered the kitchen smoke alarms had been extinguished.

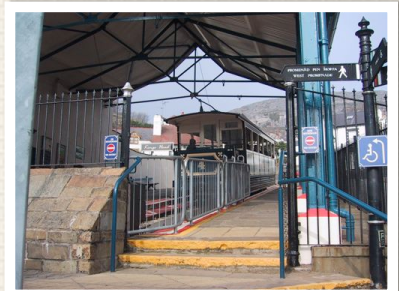
On Sunday I was handed well over a yard of tickets by the bus driver when we used public transport to reach the outskirts of town for a country walk, spending the journey with it draped around me. In childhood I would have been thrilled to bits to collect such a long ticket.

Incidentally this weekend was organised by the same lady arranging the minibus to Network Summer School.

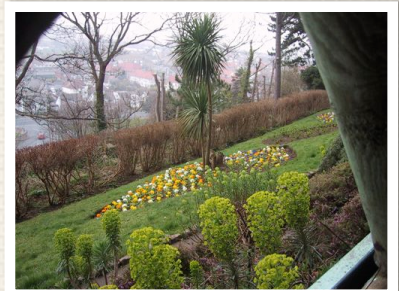
QUICK TOUR



PIER



TRAMWAY



HAULFRE GARDENS



GREAT ORME TRAIL



Tribute to Nan Roberts

Nan grew up as part of a Liverpool Welsh clan and after training as a primary school teacher got her first post in a school on Scotland Road. It was whilst visiting relations in Anglesey she met her husband Bill at a tea dance. Married in 1961 they lived in various parts of the city before settling in Oxton where she became a full time mum and housewife after her 2 sons were born. This was when she developed her love of handicrafts, wanting to master any new hobby she embarked on.

Returning to work after her sons were grown she taught various subjects including music before starting at Woodchurch High in 1979 as Special needs teacher.

Nan retired in 1993 yet 24 years later former colleagues had not forgotten her and crowded the chapel at Landican. She was kindly, they recalled, compassionate but outspoken. She wouldn't leave unsaid what needed to be said. She battled for the under-dog. Her family recall her sense of fun and her wicked sense of humour.

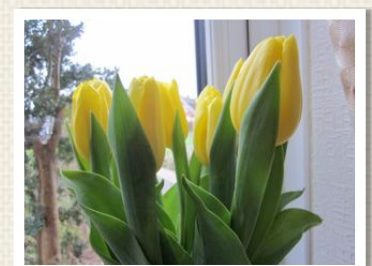
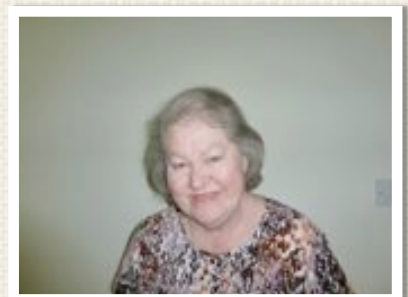
A great reader of all kinds of literature, a lover of classical music and concert goer she became a patron of the Everyman and Playhouse theatres. Widowed in 1990 she looked outwards for rebuilding her life, taking up tennis where she ran a junior section, serving on committees for the MS Society, serving as Treasurer then Chairman of Bebington U3A.

Nan kept up with technology and loved astronomy as her screen saver and browser bear witness. After recovering from a heart valve replacement in 2012 she was full of plans for the future at the time of her death.

Nan gave me sound advice which helped me weather opposition whilst serving on committees. Thanks, Nan. I won't forget you.

NAN'S LEGACY

- ❖ November 2015 our 30th Anniversary celebrations
- ❖ June 2016 making sheets for Alder Hey
- ❖ November 2016- our Anniversary lunch at the Riverhill Hotel



Snippets

Do you have problems parking your car neatly?

Good news - someone has designed a system that parks the car after the driver has left the vehicle.

Congratulations Chester!- it beat 42 other European cities, winning the European Access City Award. Most of the city walls and Rows are wheelchair accessible, as are all the hackney taxis and buses with 170 accessible parking bays in the local car parks.

IT MUST BE PRECIOUS.
LOOK AT THAT SMILE!



Life as an auctioneer talk

The Tomorrow's Women project, based in the former St. Lawrence's primary school and starting in 2011 now has over 140 agencies partnering them to offer women a better future than being imprisoned. The Valentine Day gifts shown on the front cover were made by their Craft group.

9		3		6		4		2		7
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Can you solve this sum by adding the missing arithmetic symbols.
Only one of the symbols can be used twice.

=	4
Answer	

Thanks to contributors Diane & Derek Adams.
email material for next issue to editor M. Elston