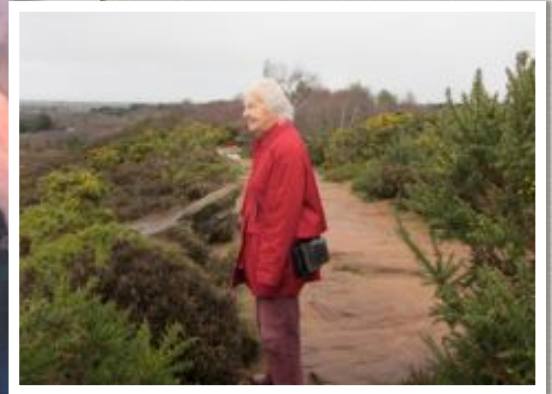




WIRRAL U3A



ABOVE: SHORT WALK OVER THURSTASTON COMMON. LEFT: MATHS GROUP

Message from our new Chairman

I am so happy to be your new Chair. I feel my first job should be a Thank you to our former chair and the old committee for doing such a brilliant job. We start off with a very healthy group, financially sound, lots of groups on offer and an array of different speakers lined up. Diane has been a great support to me for which I am personally very grateful. I think she will be

a hard act to follow but I will do my best. It has been a bit of a whirl wind as I have not been a member very long. But it was clear from the first meeting of the U3A it was the type of community I wanted to be part of. With time on my hands and being a curious sort of person who loves learning something

new, the U3A offers me a wonderful range of interest groups with the chance to meet interesting, like minded people. I can think of no finer organisation of which to be a member. I do hope I can do a good job for us all.

Lin Clough



OFF TO



SAMOA



WITH THE CASEMENTS



Group	Leader	Meeting Time	Location
Astronomy	David Moore	1 st Thursday 2 pm	Hoylake
Book group	Hosted by Mary Floyd		Tranmere
Buddies	Lin Clough	See Buddies desk outside meeting room for information	
Craft	Diane Adams	2nd & 4th Weds	Upton
Creative Writing	Monica Price	4th Tuesday	Oxton
French	Janet Belton	Alternate Fridays 10am	Moreton
Jazz Appreciation	Nigel Lewis	TBA	TBA
Local History	Betty Nesbitt	3rd Thursday 1 pm	Oxton
Maths for Fun	Derek Adams	3rd Thursday 10 am	Upton
Midweek Lunch	Julie Baldwin Margaret Elston	Mondays after U3A meeting	Announced on the day
Music Appreciation	Janet Belton	1st Thursday 10 am	Moreton
Philosophy	Brian Gill	1st Wednesday	Oxton
Practical Art	I. Roberts	4th Tuesday 2 pm	Claughton
Poetry	Arthur Maltby	TBA	
Science	Mary Green	2nd Fridays 2 pm	Birkenhead
Scrabble	Beryl Keggan	3rd Monday 2 pm	West Kirby
Sunday Lunch	June Kerr	Varies monthly but always 12:30 for 1 pm	Grove Hotel, Wallasey
Strollers	Margaret Elston	4th Monday at 11 am	Meet at start of walk
Topical Discussion	Shirley Taylor	2nd Wednesday 10 am	West Kirby
Walking	Margaret Elston	2nd Monday at 10 am	Meet at start of walk
Wine Appreciation	Sue Shaw	3rd Wednesday 2 pm	Newton Village hall £6 per session
Bank holidays and 5 Monday months mean our meetings at the Williamson and Monday groups change			

Group news

Book group :- Host Mary Floyd

This daytime group is an amalgamation with Val's evening book group and at the moment is managing without a leader. Mary is a keen photographer - see below, next page and back cover for some of her work

Buddies :- Co-ordinator Lin Clough

Buddies had their first outing, seeing *The Verdict* at the Floral Pavilion. For more news of this new group see page 6

Maths for Fun :- Leader Derek Adams.

Front cover shows Mo and Derek puzzling over a set of brain teasers provided by Margaret. Quiz books and the Internet provide a rich source of material. It's disconcerting when a team member introduces a problem as being easy and it's NOT!!! Derek played a trick on us last session by setting us a task which was technically impossible. The only consolation was that initially it fooled him too when he first came across it.

Midweek Lunch group :- Julie Baldwin/Margaret Elston

Having initially opted to meet straight after U3A at the Williamson we chose nearby venues. We've dined so far at the Caernarvon Castle and The Ox. However we are happy to meet on a different day if that is the majority decision. At The Ox I spent an interesting few minutes trying to force the token into the parking meter until I twigged the grooves on the token had to match up with those on the meter. I wonder if my car would still be trapped in the car park had I succeeded by brute force in ramming the token home! On the same day we managed to mislay one of our party between the Art Gallery and Oxton village - a matter of a few hundred yards!

Music Appreciation :- Leader Janet Belton

Yes we can listen to those old vinyls thanks to Janet's turntable. It can even play 78s of which I still have a few clad in brown paper sleeves, now somewhat frayed at the edges. For our May meeting we took the theme of occupations, listening to more light music than customary. Alphabetically jobs ranged from astronauts - *Ground Control to Major Tom* to *Zadok, the priest* with a few clowns, sorcerers, soldiers and pearl fishers thrown in along the way.

Our April theme just had to be Spring with a recording of actual skylark song to sit alongside how composers portrayed this songster in music. And of course we had to begin with the Beatles *Here comes the Sun*. We had a visitor at our last meeting, a newly appointed music group leader from another U3A who wanted to see how our group functioned.

Science :- Leader Mary Green

We revisited a DVD about *The Secret of Life*. Did you know the Golden jellyfish is plantlike in it's ability to manufacture food? No longer needing stinging tentacles it follows the sun, its body

MUSIC APPRECIATION



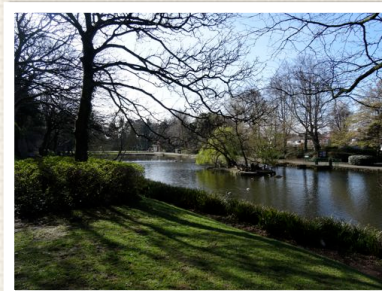
BACK IN FASHION!



SOME OF OUR SOURCE MATERIAL



TWO OF MARY'S PHOTOS TO PUT YOU IN SPRING-LIKE MODE



home to hordes of algae who create the food. I wonder if that symbiosis would work on a human scale?

Sunday Lunch :- Leader June Kerr

Next meeting Sunday 4th June at the Grove Hotel, Wallasey.

Strollers :- Leader Margaret Elston

With February being so wet we had to abandon our planned walk at Irby and swap to Thurstaston Common. Just near the complex of buildings which includes the rangers office the fallen tree across the miniature railway added a new meaning to the notion of a branch line.

March saw us at West Kirby in search of 5 parks. April found us gingerly making our way along the foreshore at Lower Heswall, attempting not to fall down into glutinous mud. Returning via the sewage works we watched a flock of martins on migration perform an aerial ballet amongst the insects rising off the settling tanks. We were warmly welcomed into Sheldrakes despite our muddy condition. May saw us setting off from the Old Baths Car park, Parkgate for a slightly longer circuit than usual which took in part of Heswall Golf Course and Backwood Hall farm.

Afterwards we refreshed ourselves at the Boathouse restaurant.

Walking :- Leader Margaret Elston

March saw us walking from Neston along urban paths from Stanney Fields park into the maze of paths around Gorsehill reservoir. I'd always wondered why the path off the farmland here into Ness was called Cumbers lane and had my answer at our last Speaker meeting when Anthony Annikin-Smith told us how a boulder dropped by the glaciers was referred to by locals as an encumbrance. Also on our route was the Harp Inn and a stretch of the multi-use path between Neston and Deeside. Janet led a walk from Hoylake over to Grange Hill in April whilst May saw us getting entangled in the Bank Holiday Fair in Ashton Park after walking over to Caldy and back. Refreshments at Kirby Park cafe.



STROLLERS and Walkers



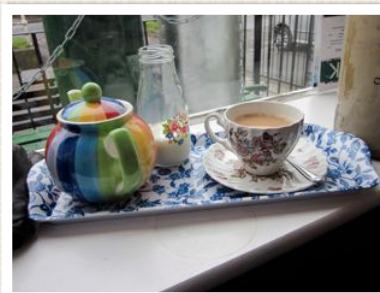
THE BRANCH LINE



THANKS, DAVE



ATOP THOR'S STONE DON'T
TELL HIS WIFE



KIRBY PARK CAFE

Northwest Region News

Energy Conference

Cumbria U3A 's 2nd energy conference attracted 140 attendees. Speakers from universities, industry and politicians came together to provide up to date information about existing technology and how future energy needs could be met. Some of the new processes such as fracking are extremely controversial. There was guidance on how local communities and individuals can achieve a low carbon lifestyle.

If you want a glimpse of the event go to the Wirral Network site and follow the link to the Cumbria conference.

The Science day sponsored by Heswall U3A last year included an informative lecture on fracking. The scientist who delivered it had decided to research the topic for his own benefit to find out the facts so he could make an objective decision on whether or not it was a desirable solution to meet energy needs.

Such was the enthusiasm for the Cumbria conference that the team who organised it are considering a 3rd conference.

Greater Manchester Network

The network have been negotiating with Manchester University about working in tandem on research topics. The collaboration has been agreed to in principle and now it just remains to decide on topics apart from the obvious ones of ageing and health.

Learning in the Future

Did you know there are over 5,000 on line courses mostly free. Known as MOOCs [*massive online courses*] our region have organised a free training day in Warrington to get us started. By then work on the Wirral Line service to Liverpool should be complete making the rail journey to Warrington straightforward. The opportunities for group leaders and those who can no longer attend their U3A meetings seem endless. Details and booking forms on the NW region website.

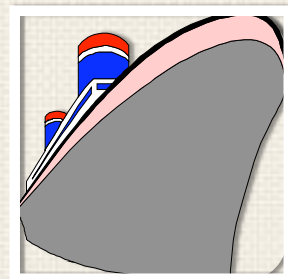
NW Region AGM

Just a reminder of this at the Manchester Friends Meeting House on 7th June. The venue is a 10 minute walk from Oxford Road station or an even shorter one from the Metro stop on St Peter's Square. The day includes workshops, entertainment as well as the business meeting.

Northwest Region News

Calling all Cruisers

Due to one of our regions members being a lecturer on Fred Olsen cruises a discount has been arranged for U3A members in our region. The offer expires in September. Gill Russell has flyers and details. See our notice-board in the Williamson for her contact details if you wish to take advantage of the discount.



Buddies

Buddies cannot run as a usual group with regular meetings as it is meant to be responsive to members needs.

The idea is a member sees an event they wish to attend. Of course one can always just take ones self or get a friend or relative to go with you. However maybe they do not have the same enthusiasm as you.

I wished to see *The Verdict*, a quality week long production at the Floral Pavilion. Through U3A Buddies group the event could be advertised and anyone else who wished to attend could make themselves known. Of the six members showing interest only Daphne and I could make the matinee. But I do now have a list of people interested in one off events.

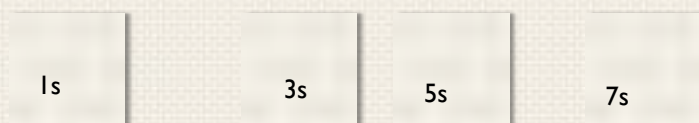
We had a great afternoon getting both to meet a new member and enjoying a great professional production. The Verdict is a critically acclaimed play of corruption in high places starring Clive Mantle and Jack Shepherd. The enjoyment of the event was further enhanced at being able to discuss the play with someone who shares an enthusiasm for theater. And this is what Buddies is about.

Buddies does not run quite like other groups. We do not meet as other groups do. Buddies need you. It needs you to find events. It could be a trip to the Zoo or an event or a show. You tell me and together we can make it happen. I will be available in the cafe for 15/20 minutes after our Monday meetings.

So come and see me and lets make it happen.

Lin Clough

Puzzle A.



Each box contains lots of copies of the number on the outside of the box. Using any 10 numbers can you reach the total of 37?

Executive Committee 2017-18

Officers	
Chairman	Lin Clough
Deputy Chairman	Janet Belton
Secretary/Registrar	Mo Kellett
Treasurer Webmaster	Derek Adams
Committee	
Social Committee	Madge Aitkin
Groups Co-ordinator	Dorothy Higginbottom
Programme Secretary	Monica Price
Newsletter Editor Minutes Secretary	Margaret Elston
Committee member	Dave Buckingham
Committee member	Phil Cubbins

Puzzle B

Apple	Banana	Raspberry x2	Cherry x2	Peach	30
Banana x2	Cherry	Peach x 2	Raspberry	Apple	31
Peach	Raspberry x2	Banana	Apple x 2	Cherry	28
Cherry x2	Peach x 2	Apple	Banana x2	Raspberry	35
Raspberry	Apple x 2	Cherry	Peach	Banana	23
28	35	33	30	21	

Can you work out the value of each fruit if no value is greater than 9?				
Apple	Banana	Cherry	Peach	Raspberry

PHOTOS FROM THIS YEAR



Thanks to contributors Derek Adams, Lin Clough and Mary Floyd.

PHOTOS

1. MARY'S SHOT OF THE QUAY BY THE HARP INN SEEN ON THE NESTON WALK IN MARCH
2. OUR FEBRUARY STROLLERS WALK THAT HAD TO BE DIVERTED FROM IRBY BECAUSE OF MUD
3. STILL TRYING TO WORK OUT MARGARET'S PUZZLE SHEET
4. BUDDIES FIRST OUTING
5. REFRESHMENT HALT FOR THE MAY LONG WALK

There are still some places remaining on our North West Region Summer School at Penrith, particularly in Science. Details of mini-coach transport still on the notice-board at the Williamson.

There was some discussion at the recent Wirral U3A Network meeting about the difficulty of getting successful Science groups. Chester U3A with their 65 strong Science group seem to have solved the problem. They have 11 speakers a year and at one time had access to a laboratory. A recent topic was the Science of cooking. Sounds fun.

Do look at our Wirral Network website. Hoylake managed to make an overnight trip to Durham and Beamish viable by advertising spare places on this website.

Finally the Isle of Man U3A is part of our region and is looking for a U3A to twin with.