



# WIRRAL U3A



ITEMS OF INTEREST ON THE  
BIRKENHEAD PARK- BIDSTON HILL  
WALK

## Keep your eyes peeled and your camera handy

You never know when a photo opportunity will arise. Like turning up at the end of the Keith Orford lecture and catching the leader of the Astronomy group sporting a snazzy and apt tie. David stood patiently whilst I tried to get a close-up shot in focus.

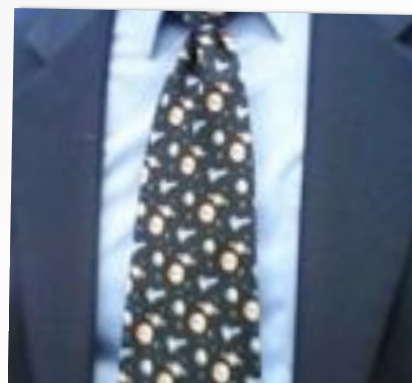
The Strollers and Walkers take better photos than me and carry superior cameras so I am kept well supplied.

You'd be forgiven for thinking I take truncated snaps but if the top or sides are missing from some of my offerings it's sometimes the effect of the

formatting on the template I use to design this newsletter. I am slowly learning ways around this but I'm in a bit of a hurry to get this printed ready for New Members Day and I'm also fearful that school half term next week means I have to get to the printer today.



JANET'S SEASONAL TEAPOT



DAVID'S ASTRONOMICAL TIE



AND IN CLOSE-UP

## Current groups

Contact groups organizer Dorothy Higginbottom for further details

Group	Leader	Meeting times	Location
Astronomy	David Moore	1st Thurs 2 pm	Hoylake
Beginners Mahjong	Sally Ledger	Mon pm	Wallasey
Buddies	Lyn Clough	See Buddies desk outside meeting room for information	
Craft	Diane Adams	2nd & 4th Weds	Upton
Creative Writing	Monica Price	4th Tues	Oxton
French	Janet Belton	10 am alternate Fridays	Moreton
Local History	Betty Nesbitt	3rd Thurs 1 pm	Oxton
Maths for Fun	Derek Adams	3rd Thurs 10 am	Upton
Monday lunch	Arranged by consensus	Meets after U3A meeting ends	Announced on the day
Music Appreciation	Janet Belton	1st Thurs at 10 am	Moreton
Philosophy	Brian Gill	1st Weds	Oxton
Practical Art	I. Roberts	4th Tues at 2 pm	Claughton
Religions of the World	Monica Price & Diane Adams	2nd Tues 10am	Oxton
Science	Mary Green	2nd Fri at 2 pm	Birkenhead
Scrabble	Beryl Keggan	3rd Mon at 2 pm	West Kirby
Sunday lunch	June Kerr	varies	Grove Hotel, Wallasey
Strollers/Walkers	Margaret Elston	Alternate Mon 11am/10am	Meet at start of walk
Topical discussion	Shirley Taylor	2nd Weds at 10 am	West Kirby
Wine Appreciation	Sue Shaw	3rd Weds at 2 pm	Newton village hall.
Bank Holidays and 5 Monday months affect some groups such as Strollers and Walkers as they alternate with the Williamson meetings.			



# Northwest Region news

Did you know our Northwest region contains 40,000 U3A members! Future events in the pipeline include a Craft Fare, History of Liverpool Study Day, A Quiz and a U3A ball. Northwest Summer School 2018 details below. The venue is once again Newton Rigg Agricultural college on the outskirts of Penrith.

Course	Tutor
Housing, Modernism & Architecture	Clyde Raine
Lake District Minerals	Christine Arkwright
Making friends with Music	Jack Wood
Modern medicine	Gill Baynes
Recorder playing	Marlene Phillips
Ruskin and his legacy	Meg Shaw
Science is for everyone	Bob Roach
Twentieth Century Russia- Tsarism- Communism-then ?	Edward Towne
Wars of 3 Kingdoms and 2 generals.	Brenda Cubbon
What did the Romans ever do for us?	Maggie Simms

The Big Sing- Royal Northern College of Music Sept 2018 Greater Manchester Network has opened this to all U3A members. Participants will rehearse popular songs and songs from musicals with a Halle conductor before performing mid afternoon. Cost TBA but in the region of £15-£20. To enrol see Events page on the Northwest Region website.

Deeside/Wirral Network Music Day - Dec 11th 2017

Sadly some of the Welsh contingent missed the first item, a piano recital cum potted history of piano music composers. Anyone travelling from high ground had problems due to overnight snowfall. Our singing tutor arrived in his warmest rather than smartest outfit, having struggled on foot the first part of his journey. Lunch on site was superb- if you're on a low carb diet this is the place to eat! With a bit of luck the afternoon entertainer will visit our U3A one day.

## DEESIDE & WIRRAL NETWORK NEWS

SCIENCE DAY 30TH APRIL

HESWALL HALL  
ALL U3A MEMBERS WELCOME.

A SPEAKER FROM THE INSTITUTE OF PHYSICS AND THE U3A SCIENCE ADVISER WILL ATTEND. SEE NETWORK WEBSITE FOR DETAILS.



LOOKING OUT FROM THE QUAKER MEETING HOUSE ONTO THE COURTYARD.



INSTRUMENTS USED IN THE AFTERNOON ENTERTAINMENT

# Group news

## Local History- Betty Nesbitt

This group is bursting at the seams so Betty can no longer accommodate new additions to meetings at her home but you are welcome to tag along on outings.

## Maths for Fun

We had a visitor from another maths group when I distinguished myself by asking what an integer is. Presumably this other group know all the correct terminology. As part of the session we watched a short extract from the Internet about a young French mathematician, Galois who got himself killed in a duel. The night beforehand he frantically wrote down his theories about symmetry. Struggling to understand what followed my thoughts were "Oh would that he had been challenged to a duel before ever he thought of this wretched idea!" I will leave you with 2 problems that baffled me.

XMAS+

EVE

≡SNOW

Use two eights and two threes to reach 24



## SPOTTED ON WALKS



PART OF A COLLECTION OF ANIMALS ON A SMALL-HOLDING IN BARNSTONDALE WOODS.

NOW THIS CONTRAPTION FLUMMOXED THE WALKERS. SEEN ON THE A540, TELEGRAPH ROAD NEAR THE JUNCTION WITH MERE LANE AND OLDFIELD DRIVE.

ANY IDEAS?

# Group news continued

## Music Appreciation- Janet Belton

During our December session we enjoyed several Sleigh Rides and Holy Nights. Can you guess what carol this Erse version could be  
“Oiche Chivin”

From our January meeting at Ian’s house I discovered that Elgar wanted to upgrade marching music so he dedicated his Pomp & Circumstance No1 to the Liverpool Orchestral Society who first performed it. Fame came overnight when a conductor on the look-out for new English pieces included Dorabella in his repertoire. His Wand of Youth began life as a childhood composition for a play staged by young family members, re-appearing 40 years later with the inclusion of some dance music composed whilst working at the Worcester City and County Lunatic Asylum. For a man who’d trained as a lawyer, then failed to make the grade as a concert violinist he’d certainly led an interesting life. During all the time we listened to this music a woodpigeon had been so firmly attached to Ian’s bird table I began wondering if it was glued on.

According to Google there were a host of composers beginning with F but the music group members could only muster Finzi and Faure so we used the ruse of picking pieces or instruments instead. With superb timing the bin wagon came round just as Handel’s Fireworks music was in full throttle.



## SCIENCE



Here’s something you can try at home if you own a metal mixing bowl. Polish it a bit then dangle an object inside it  
Being acrylic the prism didn’t refract in the same way as glass would.  
The astronomer William Herschel's dad was ambitious for his children but the mother expected Herschel's sister to remain as a household drudge. So how did this tiny frail girl[*she was only 4’3”*] become famous throughout the world for her astronomical discoveries and live to be 97 years old? Brother William rescued her, built a special telescope for her and roped her in for mapping the night skies. When William married her life changed again. One last piece of information -*she had partial vision in her left eye.*



# Group News continued

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## Monday Lunchers

We seem to have been dining at the Shrew in Oxton recently straight after our meetings at the Williamson and other members are welcome to join us. Just linger after the meeting closes and we'll find you.

## Sunday Lunchers- June Kerr

This group continues to meet at the Grove Hotel in Wallasey. Next meeting is 11th March at 12:30 Please contact June if you want to join them.

## New Group- Beginners Mahjong

This is run by a member of Wallasey U3A and meetings take place in Wallasey. The first scheduled meeting is due to take place on Monday 12th February.

## New Group - Religions of the World.

At the inaugural meeting the group decided to study one religion at a time. Members would research aspects of the religion which interested them and bring their findings to the group to share. Aspects to look at could include origins of the religion and its global number of worshippers, religious practices and culture, clothes and jewellery, food, music, customs such as washing and practices and rituals associated with birth, marriage and death. The group will participate in visits to various religious sites and consider inviting guest speakers which might incur a cost.

Group members mentioned the following as being of interest to them :

*Islam:Hinduism:Jehovah's Witnesses:Buddhism:Native American beliefs:Aboriginal beliefs:Bhai.*

This is not an exhaustive list and other religions will be added to it

Diane Adams.

Social Update - Red-eyed, snarling and angry- remind you of anybody? It did me! In actuality it was the Hound of the Baskervilles. It appeared (or rather its effigy materialized) in just one scene of the matinee play which U3A went to watch back in January.



## *Baskerville at the Playhouse.*

Billed as a comedy and based on Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's famous Sherlock Holmes tale the small cast played for laughs as they swapped slickly from scene to scene and switched roles.

Ok so it was scary at times but the comical element was always lurking in the background. I very much enjoyed it.

John Steele

# Yesterday, Today and Tomorrow

## Yesterday

The best of the cracker jokes

“Why did the Orange take a Lemon to the Christmas Ball?”

“Why did the chef decide not to buy 8 venison joints?”

“Why was the snowman rummaging through carrots in the supermarket?”

Answers on back page.

Time for a Cuppa?

My Christmas presents included a rectangular package. Inside the festive wrapping was a gift box of teas.

First I removed the cellophane

Next I opened the box

There I found 3 smaller boxes

So I removed cellophane from the first box

Then I opened the box

Inside were 15 foil wrapped sachets

So I opened one sachet and took out a teabag

Preferring loose tea I cut open the teabag to discard the paper case, staple, string and paper anchorage

Repeating the process 14 times I ended up with just 7

teaspoons of dusty, powdery tea .....

And a lot of useless packaging .....

And still another two boxes to process

## Today

“CAN YOU BE A NEW MEMBER YET ALSO AN OLD ONE?”

*Arthur Maltby joined us for a second time about a year ago. A member from 2000-2003, he gave the Millennium lecture of Shakespeare and led two interest groups. He then left U3A to research and write an academic book, re-joining at Heswall in 2009.*

*Currently Chair of the Network committee at which local U3As seek to share good practice, Arthur has just been made National Subject Adviser for Memory Maintenance. He has also been featured recently on the national website after compiling an index of rarer interest groups within the 1000 UK U3As. Although not a regular attendee at our meetings, Arthur assures me he has a special affection for Wirral U3A ... and is glad to be back.*

Arthur Maltby

## Driving Miss Daisy

Remember the film where actor Morgan Freeman was hired to chauffeur actress Jessica Tandy because she couldn't get car insurance after a series of mishaps with her automobile as she aged. From a hostile beginning the relationship between them blossomed into friendship and affection as the film spanned several decades and gave filmgoers a slice of U.S. history.

There are 1000,000 drivers aged 90+ in the UK and 500 centenarians are still licensed! One of our members passed their Advanced driving test at the age of 93!

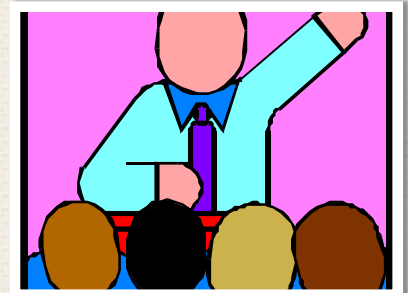
## YESTERDAY- TOMORROW



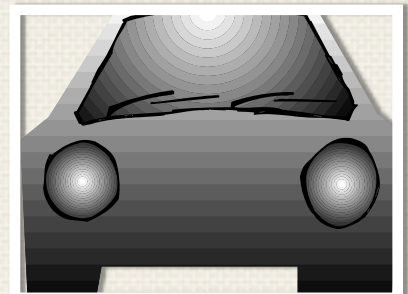
CHRISTMAS CRACKERS



TEA'S UP-AT LAST



ARTHUR -AN INSPIRATION



ELDERLY DRIVER AT LARGE

# PHOTOS FROM LAST YEAR



## Tomorrow is almost here

Answers to cracker riddles  
because he couldn't  
get a date  
because it was too  
dear (two deer)  
he was picking his  
nose

Thanks to contributors  
Diane Adams, Dave  
Buckingham, Lin Clough,  
Mary Floyd and John Steele.  
Also to Derek Adams for a  
copy of the Northwest  
Region newsletter.  
email material for the next  
edition to editor

Thanks.

Our AGM is looming on the horizon. How are you going to help our U3A survive and flourish? Or are you going to sit back and let it struggle? We especially need folk to arrange outings and occasions like our Anniversary dinner. At the moment no outings are in the pipeline. If you want any extras beyond our regular speaker meeting and group activities you'll need to attend a Network or Regional event.

Photos Top left: Musical entertainment Dec 11th  
Top Right: Science group reflected in a metal bowl  
Lower Left: Mary's attempt at an orchid  
Lower Centre: Wildflowers seen on a walk  
Lower Right: Strollers at Pleasant View farm. We'd just walked up a new multi-use track from Sealand on our way back to Shotwick village.