

WIRRAL U3A



BREAKING UP FOR CHRISTMAS IN STYLE WITH PARKGATE'S PARADE JAZZ BAND, WINE & SONG

Parkgate's Parade Jazz Band at the Williamson

The following is what I garnered from our Jazz band visit. The music is generally played by ear by instrumentalists coming together in small groups. Improvisation is governed by the chords of the tune.

In 10 years Jazz spread around the globe from its hometown

New Orleans. As the bands got bigger and the music more complex the experience became more satisfying for the players. The 12 bar blues fathered rock n roll, early pop music and rhythm and blues. Songs are mostly not written down nor accredited to a particular composer. However

the quick witted band that recorded Tiger Rag copywrited it.

From Eastern European Jewish gypsies came trends that spread westwards, adapting to jazz. Meanwhile back in the States jazz moved from New Orleans to the East coast .



GETTING IN THE MOOD



FOR CELEBRATING CHRISTMAS



MAYBE WINNING THE RAFFLE

Current groups

Contact groups organizer Christine Gibbons for further details

GROUP	LEADER	MEETING TIMES	LOCATION
Beginners Mahjong	Sally Ledger	Monday afternoons	Wallasey
Buddies	Lyn Clough	Varies according to the event	Likewise
Creative Writing	Monica Price	4th Tuesday	Oxton
French	Janet Belton	10am alternate Fridays	Moreton
Local History	Betty Nesbitt	1pm on 3rd Thursday	Oxton
Maths for Fun	Derek Adams	10am on 3rd Thursdays	Upton
Monday Lunch	Run by Consensus	Meets at the end of the Williamson meeting	Announced on the day
Music Appreciation	Janet Belton	10 am on 1st Thursday	Moreton
Philosophy	Brian Gill	1st Wednesday	Oxton
Religions of the World	Diane Adams & Monica Price	10am on 2nd Tuesdays	Oxton
Science	Mary Green	2pm on 2nd Fridays	Birkenhead
Scrabble	Beryl Keggan	2pm on 3rd Mondays	Newton
Sunday Lunch	Madge Aitkin	Varies	Grove Hotel, Wallasey
Strollers/Walkers	Alternates with Williamson meetings	11am/10am	Meet at start of walk
Topical Discussion	Shirley Taylor	10am on 2nd Wednesdays	West Kirby
Wine Appreciation	Sue Shaw	2pm on 3rd Wednesdays	Newton village hall
Bank Holidays and months with 5 Mondays affect our Williamson meetings and therefore Strollers and Walkers.			

New groups

John Keggan is planning a Spanish Conversation group with the support of several Spanish speaking members. Details of meeting times have yet to be finalized.

Northwest Region news

NATIONAL NEWS

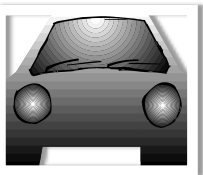
Northwest Summer School 24th-27th August 2019 at Newton Rigg Agricultural college on the outskirts of Penrith. £300 full board. £30 discount if booking before 31st May. £50 deposit payable . Details below.

Archaeology	Mussolini and Hitler
Dark Age Britain	Music Appreciation
Art Appreciation 20 artists from the North west	Philosophy-Henry and William James
Etymology Appreciation	Beginners ukulele
Geology	Science-Human development

14th March at Warrington Gateway:- a seminar run jointly with the NHS to inform members of reliable Apps to help with diet, fitness etc. A bewildering 325,000+ are available for mobile phones so some guidance is most welcome.

4th June at Preston:- NorthWest Region AGM and Conference

Motoring memories project:- The region is collaborating with Dr Craig Horner from Manchester Metropolitan University. You can pass on your memories via Facebook, a



private blog or direct email to Northwest Region. At an introductory session in Manchester participants were told the secret of the mole wrench. To access the private blog email the region for the link.

Our region also links in with Liverpool Mathematical Society. At the moment there's an Open Challenge running plus a lecture on Women drivers on Weds 13th Feb 5.30-6.30 pm starting with refreshments at 5pm. Non-members of the LivMS £4 on the door. Held in Lecture Room C, Central Hub, University of Liverpool.

*Did you know walking sports have become popular. One U3A has introduced Walking cricket?

*Some U3As have set up memory cafes whilst others have used video conferencing techniques to discuss with U3As abroad.

*Another U3A wants to use the same method for an online History book group.

*National Study day for languages- 27th March at Aston University- designed to help those running language groups.

*U3A explores Science- March 11th at The Royal Institution- 3 talks pm

*21st March-The National Gallery- British Art from Hogarth-Turner

*Science Network Annual meeting

5th-8th August at Birmingham Conference Aston-just 10 minute walk from New Street station. See below for speakers currently booked.

Radiology	Mysterious water
Frankenstein's science	Scare stories- assessing risk
Liquid Amps	Cell diversity
Biology of frailty	Science behind musical scale
How intelligent is your robot	TBA

Group news

Creative Writing - Monica Price- is looking for new members.

French-Janet Belton- her group is bursting at the seams

Local History- Betty Nesbitt- is also over-subscribed.

Betty does include surplus members in her outdoor meetings.

Maths for Fun-Derek Adams- we have been watching installments of a recent TV programme about mathematics alongside our monthly ration of brain-teasers. Can anybody out there remember what they did in geometry class 50+ years ago? If you can you would thrive in this group. Algebra sticks in the memory rather better.

Monday Lunchers- run by consensus.

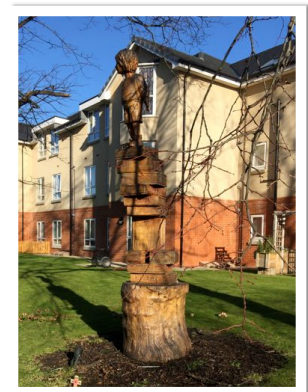
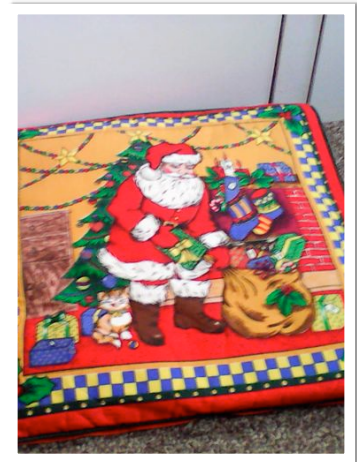
Our ranks have swelled. The Shrew seems to be our most popular choice of venue. Just wait behind after our meetings at the Williamson and we will rope you in.

Music Appreciation- Janet Belton- can accommodate some new members. We have reached letter O after kicking off the New Year with Mussorgsky's Night on a Bare Mountain and extracts from the Nutcracker. If Strauss be the Waltz King then a surprising piece by Shostakovich entitles him to be Emperor. As usual there were plenty of photo opportunities with Janet's Christmas decor.

Science-Mary Green-having watched a DVD about the development of Ironbridge and its environs we settled on exploring the topic of sound over our next meetings.

Strollers and Walkers-

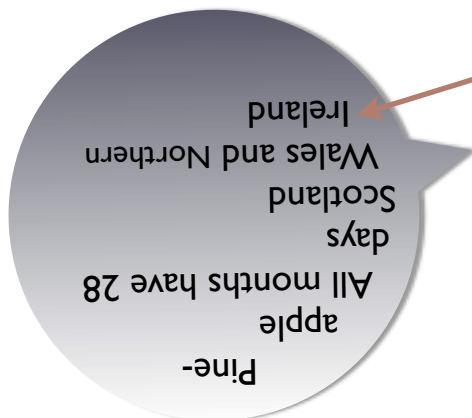
Margaret Elston -Glorious blue skies and sunshine tempted 15 members to join John Steel's walk around New Brighton. We passed a statue commemorating the founding of the Methodist Housing Association, the ornate New Brighton water tower and its accompanying garden.



Social Activities

Our Social Committee have been busily planning activities. An illustrated account of the Ten Pin Bowling features on the next page.

Date	Event	Cost
Jan 30th	Ten Pin Bowling	£9.95
Feb 6th	Blithe Spirit	Fully booked
March 14	Girl on a Train	Fully booked
5th April	Pilkington's Glass	£14.99
15th April	Soup & sandwich lunch at the Williamson	£6.50
25th April	Anderton Boat Lift & Frodsham market	£25-includes sumptuous afternoon tea
Possible future outings		
June	John Lennon Airport visit	£7.50
July	Leeds-Liverpool canal cruise	£15
September	Chester Races	



Answers to Riddles Page 8

Three surgeons were discussing what kind of person they best liked operating on.

“Electricians because their body parts are colour coded” said the first.

“Librarians” interrupted the second “because everything is arranged in alphabetical order”

“Well I prefer politicians,” drawled the third. “So many missing parts- brain, guts, heart and spine and the head is interchangeable with pretty much anything else!”

Social Activities continued

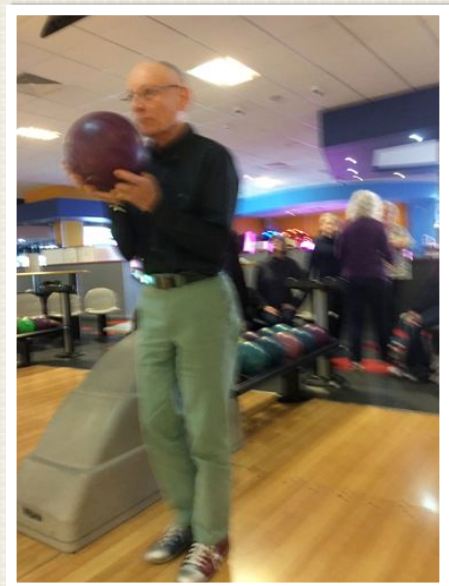
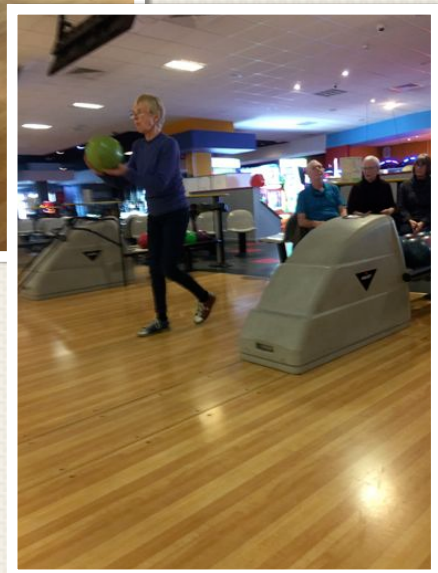
Wednesday 30th January

10 intrepid U3A members struggled through snow and ice to New Brighton to meet Daphne at the bowling alley. Having donned my thickest socks to cope with icy conditions it was a pleasant surprise to be offered roomy and comfy bowling shoes. If I hadn't had to hand over my best boots in exchange I might have been tempted to make off with them. It's a perennial problem finding footwear to fit over winter socks unless you don't object to clomping around in hiking boots.

Daphne our leader soon took the lead. You can see spelling isn't a



Player	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Total
DIAN	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	100
MARG	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	100
ELIZA	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	100
ALAN	4	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	100
DATH	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	10	100



Some players got better as time passed whilst others visibly heavy balls about.

tired after 2 hours of hurling

Equipment malfunction held up our group several times-was it mere co-incidence we were playing on alley 13?

We had a choice of free tea or coffee in real cups with saucers! Tea came in a pot and milk in a jug. We can't wait to go back and have another go!

Social activities continued

50 U3A members enjoyed the October Anniversary lunch at the Manor restaurant in Greasby. The Williamson Tunnels tour was a success as was the trip to Liverpool Everyman theatre to view "These lovely bones". U3A Diaries were popular this year- 30 were ordered.

Odds n'Ends

Don't believe in ghosts? Well the NHS do! They are plagued by them. Apparently nationwide there are thousands of patients listed with surgeries that doctors never see. Where are they? Have they died or moved away?

On Wirral nearly 5% of all those registered seem to be "Ghosts". The NHS can't be too delighted at financing folk who aren't there at a cost of nearly £2.5,000,000. Back in 2012 the Audit Commission removed 95,000 patients from surgeries' lists. But undefeated the ghosts keep coming back. Over 12,000 of 'em 3 years ago and now 15.5,000!

Which re-inforces the old saying about lies, damn lies and statistics.

Here's a few more statistics for you.

In the 6 months since the introduction of stiffer penalties for using hand held mobile phones whilst driving 27,614 drivers have been caught offending. Carbuyer.co.uk acquired this information from the UK's 44 police forces by a series of Freedom of Information requests. The RAC Road Safety Spokesman feels the reduction of police patrols means drivers get away with offending. By his reckoning 9,000,000 drivers refuse to conform with regulations.

Ever been on a weight loss diet? Did it work? Could you stick to it or did the weight return? Two Israeli doctors have worked out what's been happening in the digestive tract. Let's start with your unique microbiome. That's your personal assortment of 100 trillion germs and microbes. They determine how you metabolise food. You might for example get a greater increase in blood sugar after eating bread than if you'd eaten sugar.

If you can control blood sugar levels after eating your weight should stabilize automatically. You don't want your body turning sugars into fat and storing it. This is where your microbiome kicks in. You might have a dominance of some bacteria that affect the digestive process in a negative way. In trials one patient could happily consume chocolate, ice cream and bread and butter. Grapes, salmon, tomatoes and new potatoes sent her insulin levels soaring.



And finally

Using just two 3s and two 8s as well as mathematical signs such as +:-:×:√:():² ³ can you calculate all the numbers between 1 and 30?

e.g. $\frac{3 \times 3 \times 8}{8} = 9$

Well one U3A maths group can! Give you a clue - use cubed roots to get 2.

PS. Does anybody out there know how the mole wrench got its name? 'Cos I'd like to know!

PHOTOS ROUND -UP



Photos

Top left-Janet's model handbell ringers

Top Right-Beryl holds one of the few coloured items of underwear.

Bottom Right - our Town crier enjoying a cuppa before his talk.

Centre-Colchicum

Bottom left-Pat and Beryl holding up the daintiest and laciest of the onesies.

Pick of the Cracker riddles 2018

*What grows from an apple hybridized with a Christmas tree?

*How many months have 28 days?

Answers Page 5

Did you Know?

According to RAC data whilst driving around in 2018 you were 2.5 times more likely to hit a pothole than you were when driving in 2006. The RAC treated cars for broken shock absorbers, damaged springs and deformed wheels.

Analysis of new car sales in 2018 reveal that black has been toppled off the podium by grey. In 3rd place is white. It's been 9 years since a brighter colour topped the paint charts. Blue and red are in 4th and 5th position respectively. Orange is 7th and beige has crept into the top 10 for the first time ever! Yukk!!

Which country has white as number 1?

Which 2 countries have green in first place?

Of the 118 colours used for cars you'll find all bar 2 used in England.