



WIRRAL U3A



Sailing into the
Anderton lift



Hoylake lighthouse

Pilkington's Glass Tour

Twenty members of Wirral U3A went by train to St Helens for an excellent day out. We had tea and coffee with biscuits on arrival. This was followed by a guided tour of the Museum and demonstration of glass blowing.

A film showing the development of glass blowing followed. After a cooked lunch we were taken round the old glass works "over the road" This excellent day out cost a princely sum of £15 and was worth every penny.

Diane Adams



Current groups

Contact groups organizer Christine Gibbon for further details

GROUP	LEADER	MEETING TIMES	LOCATION
Beginners Mahjong	Sally Ledger	Monday afternoons	Wallasey
Bowls	Phil Cubbins	Inaugural meeting Thurs 25th April	
Buddies	Lyn Clough	Varies	Varies
Creative Writing	Monica Price	4th Tuesday	Oxton
French	Janet Belton	10 am alternate Fridays	Moreton
Local History	Betty Nesbitt	1 pm on 3rd Tuesday	Oxton
Maths for Fun	Derek Adams	2 pm on 3rd Thursdays	Upton
Monday Lunch	Run by consensus	Meets after the Williamson lecture	Oxton
Music Appreciation	Janet Belton	10 am on 1st Thursday	Moreton
Philosophy	Brian Gill	1st Wednesday	Oxton
Religions of the World	Diane Adams Monica Price	10 am on 2nd Tuesdays	Oxton
Science	In transition	2 pm on 2nd Fridays	Oxton
Scrabble	Beryl Keggan	2 pm on 3rd Mondays	Newton
Spanish Conversation	John Keggan	Thursday	
Sunday Lunch	Madge Aitken	Varies	Wallasey
Strollers/Walkers	Margaret Elston	Alternates with Williamson lectures	Meet at start of walk
Topical Discussion	Shirley Taylor	10 am on 2nd Wednesdays	West Kirby
Wine Appreciation	Sue Shaw	2 pm on 3rd Wednesdays	Newton village hall
Bank Holidays and months with 5 Mondays affect our Williamson lectures and Strollers/Walkers			

Northwest Region news

Northwest Summer School 2019 27th-30th August

is now fully booked for residential places. There is a waiting list or you could attend as a day member. The venue is once again Newton Rigg Agricultural college on the outskirts of Penrith. A minibus has been laid on for those travelling from Wirral.

Creative Thinking Workshop

Tues April 30th at Crewe Alexandria Stadium 10:30-15:30.

Lunch is not provided and there will be a charge for this course. It's designed to be an inter-active day. You can register by post or online.

North West Region Conference and AGM

The Exchange , Preston

Tuesday 4th June 10:30-15:45. Lunch not provided but easily obtainable nearby. Morning sessions offer a choice of discussion on Interest groups, the new model constitution, U3A financial matters or mindfulness and meditation

Speaker Sid Calderbank is lecturing on Lancashire dialect using songs, stories and poetry before the AGM at 3pm.

National news

Aston University Summer School

12th-15th August

Art History & Archaeology -Ancient America	International Films	Literature and philosophy
Creative Writing	Italian culture	Jazz
Victorian Poetry	Child linguistics	Ukulele
Singing for Pleasure		

Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester

10th-13th September

Cryptic Crosswords for beginners	Bede and the spread of Christianity	Surprised by Maths
Mid twentieth century Drama	Latin in Roman Britain	Donizetti's Operas
Influential Women Gardeners	Shakespeare and the props department	Introduction to Philosophy
Recorder Ensembles		

Wirral U3A Group news

Local History- leader Betty Nesbitt-see page 7 for a detailed update

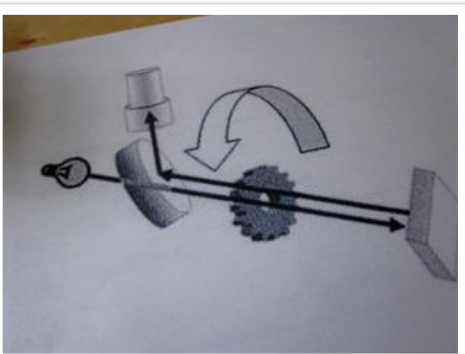
Maths for Fun :- In our March meeting we heard how Faraday demonstrated the link between electricity and magnetism. Later Maxwell provided the maths to explain what was happening. Experiments on the speed of light established that light was an electromagnetic wave. This tied in nicely with what the Science group had been studying recently. The notion of Infinity arose.

I don't know if you have ever been exposed to the puzzle of what happens when an infinite number of guests check into the Infinity hotel. The solution involves the guest in Room 1 moving into the next room and so on down the line. As if a hotel like that would stay in business!



Afterwards we moved on to the Genius Square. What a relief when I finally caught on to how to play this game. It's a bit crushing struggling with an activity that any kid can do standing on their head! Firstly the caller uses the dice to select squares to be filled by circular pieces then it's up to the players to fit in all the irregularly shaped ones. As you can see from the photo more than one solution is possible.

Science :- Early attempts to measure the speed of Light. Dave rigged up the contraption you see here so we could attempt this ourselves. You may be relieved to read I can't find my notes, just a solitary page of scribbled calculations and a dim memory that a scientist several hundred years ago got as close as we did to the correct answer.



The sketch illustrates how Dave created a series of mini eclipses by interrupting the beam of light. We could alter the speed of the cog wheel. The plant lurking behind the apparatus originally stood in a different part of the room but we persuaded Dave to move it to a spot where it could enjoy more light.

Music Appreciation

Letter O this month so Ian began with “Oriental Festive March” from Grieg’s Aladdin Suite. Grieg’s ancestors were Scottish immigrants so changed their name from Gregg to fit in better. Grieg was so small the legs of his piano had to be shortened. Another snippet - Salzburg cathedral has 4 organs.

Strollers :- we walked around Hoylake on a perfect Spring day. The place is full of quirky buildings.



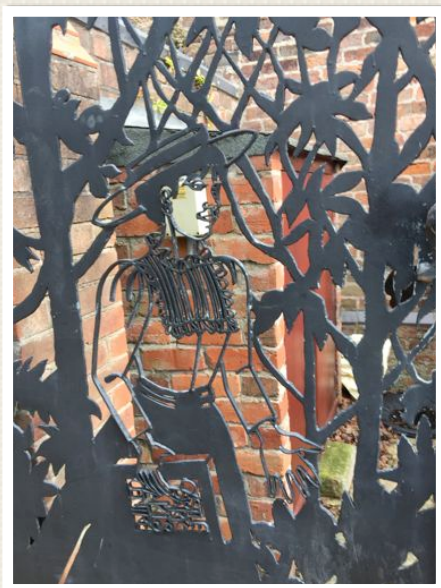
Stumbling across the Plasterer’s Arms it was too good an opportunity to resist a group sit down.



Social Activities

Coach trip to Frodsham market and the Anderton Lift Frodsham is but a short hop away and soon our passengers were sampling the market which dates from early medieval days. Tucked away inside the local park was an Arts Centre next to a woodland path festooned by Ramsons. A metal fence with embedded designs separated the 2 areas.

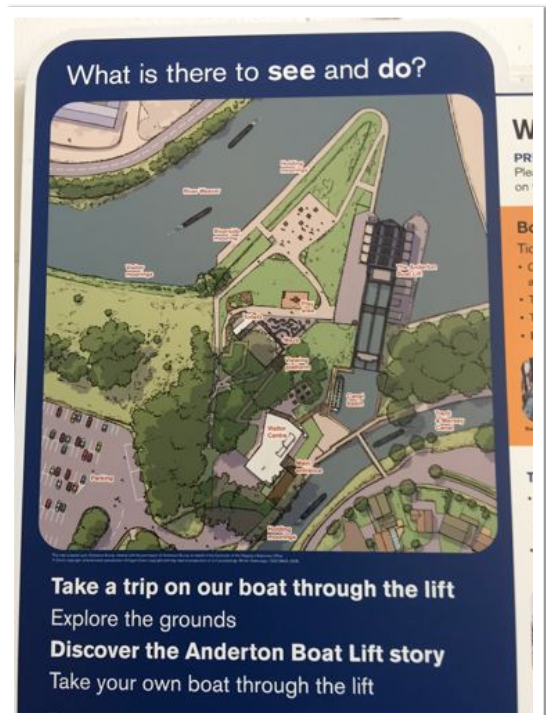
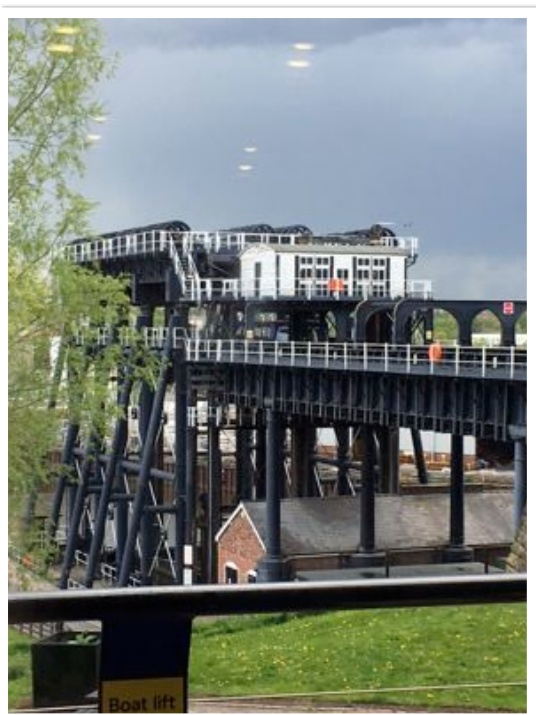
Having admired the various designs embedded in the metal fence of the Arts Centre we sampled the delights of the cafe before touring the exhibits. I was intrigued to come across Toilet Twinning for the first time.



Group news continued

Fortunately the storm clouds held off till we'd completed our descent of the lift and cruised along the Weaver to the outskirts of Northwich disturbing herons and cormorants en route. Spots of rain chased us back uphill to the Visitor area for our cream tea.

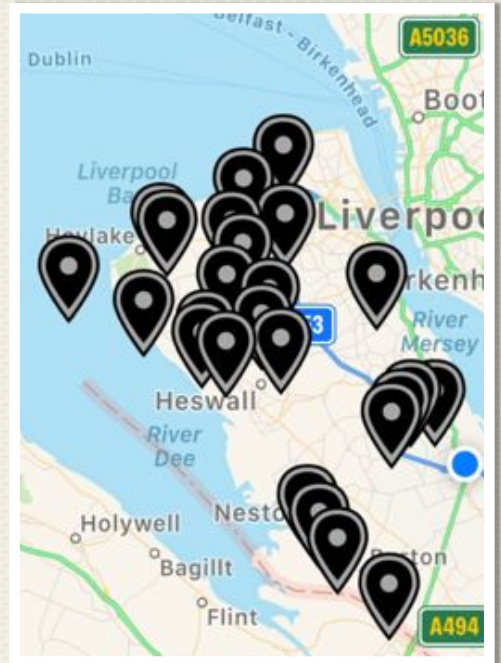
After the Weaver navigation was completed in 1724 Liverpool was just 8 hours away. The Trent and Mersey canal which ran on higher ground alongside became so gridlocked with boats that finding a way to move the cargoes onto the Weaver became a necessity. Edwin Clark designed an hydraulic lift powered by the heavily polluted river water. Clark was a world expert in lifting heavy weights, having worked out how to raise the superstructure of the Menai and Tamar bridges into the sky. In its heyday 130 boats used the lift daily. The lift now uses oil for its hydraulics.



Many thanks to Dave Buckingham for booking us on this trip.

Local History group

During the past 6 months we have been concentrating on our project “Wirral Vikings” and their impact on the landscape and indigenous Wirralians. Each member has taken an interest in one of the many aspects of this amazing subject. We wanted to know about their origins, settlements, place names, personal names, artifacts unearthed including hoards plus their part in the battle of Brunanburh alongside Picts, Celts and Angles. This battle is the biggest military confrontation ever fought on English soil from which Athelstan emerged the victor in 937 after defeating an alliance of Irish and Scots warriors. We plan to combine our research and produce a PowerPoint presentation showcasing contributions from most of the group. This we hope at some date to present to our Wirral U3A.



The map I have provided identifies all the sites with Viking connections. Wirral has the most Viking remains of anywhere in England.

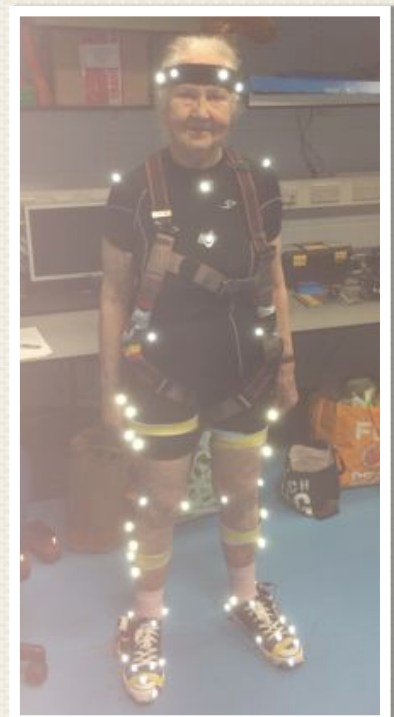
Betty Nesbitt

Social Activities continued

Friday 7th June Liverpool John Lennon airport tour at 11 am. Cost £7:50

Wednesday July 10th at Burscough. Canal boat trip with afternoon tea. Starts 12 noon. Cost £15. A car share may be arranged.

Liverpool John Moores university - risk detection for the prevention of falls on stairs in older people using wearable sensor shoes. It took 2 assistants 30 minutes to accoutre Pat in this outfit before she was taken to 3 buildings on the campus which replicated houses from 1930s, 1950s and modern times. Here she had to use the stairs. Before this exercise she completed a set of balance tests and afterwards she was asked to keep a falls diary.



AMAZING WHAT YOU SEE



..... read or hear

Photos

Top left -More of the Frodsham Arts Centre fence

Top right- Part of the Anderton Lift display

Bottom left - The lift from the Weaver

Bottom centre- Springtime in Hoylake

Bottom right-I just couldn't resist this Whitby street name.

Thanks to contributors Diane Adams, Dave Buckingham, Pat Moulden Betty Nesbitt and Christine Purcell.

Slug pellets are soon to be withdrawn if they contain metaldehyde since that particular pesticide will be banned. The chemical has been infiltrating our drinking water and we spend millions getting rid of it. Globally 80% of slug pellets contain this toxin.

Still on the gardening theme

If your mind be the garden and your thoughts be the blooms

Do the weeds flourish or do you grow flowers?

Recently released were statistics on the number of taxi drivers caught driving under the influence of drugs and alcohol-both private hire and hackney carriage vehicles. Seemingly some men are working such long hours they use a stimulant to keep themselves awake.