



WIRRAL U3A



Canal trip from
Burscough. Photos
Dave Buckingham

Out and About

Although a good time was had by all the voyage was not without some hitches. The captain had no crew, the water tank had not been topped up so drinking water ran out after the first half hour. Bit of a problem for a firm offering cruises with afternoon tea! I wonder who did the washing up and how after the voyage was over? Judging by the happy faces in the photo it certainly wasn't the passengers.

[Thanks for the info, Dave.]

Unfortunately although members of our U3A have been out and about on a number of activities they are all keeping quiet about what they get up to. Putting together a newsletter in such circumstances is the equivalent of trying to make bricks without

straw, a problem faced by the Israelites during their captivity in Egypt.

I am most grateful to a member of Bromborough U3A for supplying photos and a write-up of this year's North-West Region Summer School.

Heswall Science Day is a good source of material for the newsletter but unfortunately I am unable to attend this year. Is someone out there willing to attend and provide some feedback?

I I folk attended the Strollers walk over Claremont farm permissive paths at Clatterbridge. We were lucky enough to enjoy a sunny morning after a spell of wet weather. Afterwards we repaired to the farm cafe for refreshments.

Current groups

Contact groups organizer Christine Gibbon for further details

GROUP	LEADER	MEETING TIMES	LOCATION
Beginner's Mahjong	Sally Ledger	Mon pm	Wallasey
Creative Writing	Monica Price	4th Tues	Oxton
French	Janet Belton	10am alternate Fri	Moreton
Maths for Fun	Derek Adams	3rd Thurs pm	Upton
Music Appreciation	Janet Belton	1st Thurs	Moreton
Philosophy	Brian Gill	1st Weds	Oxton
Religions of the World	Diane Adams & Monica Price	2nd Tues am	oxton
Scrabble	Beryl Keggen	3rd Mon 2pm	West Kirby
Spanish Conversation	John Keggen	Thurs am	
Sunday Lunch	Madge Aitken	varies	Grove Hotel , Wallasey
Strollers/Walkers	Margaret Elston	Alternate Mon am	Meet at start of walk
Topical Discussion	Shirley Taylor	2nd Weds 10 am	West Kirby
Wine Appreciation	Sue Shaw	3rd Weds 2 pm	Newton village hall
Bank Holidays and months with 5 Mondays affect Williamson meetings and the walking groups			

Northwest Region news

Northwest Summer School at Penrith

For the 4th successive year Busybus of Chester supplied a 16 seater minibus which departed from Bromborough on Tuesday 27th August. Thanks to Davina Edwards for organising this year's transport to the summer school .

So popular has this venue become that all places were booked up within the first 6 weeks. For just £270 participants enjoyed 10 study sessions and full board accommodation. In addition evening entertainment was provided. This included a wine tasting session, quizzes and an entertaining talk on "The Lighter side of Astronomy". As usual there was a theatre trip - this year to see "The Ladykillers"

Former Regional Chairman Neil Stevenson paid tribute to the late Eric Parkinson who made his 5th visit to this summer school in 2018 at the age of 95. Eric was known for his eye-catching outfits.

Ukelele for Beginners held a short concert with their audience singing along.



The painting group display of work was much admired. A particular favourite was their "Musical Chairs" exercise where everyone contributed to a beach scene, changing chairs every few minutes .

Some lucky groups got to go further afield on site visits.

Thanks to Diana Selmer -Bromborough U3A for this article and photos.



Network news

Science Day Thursday 10th October

Sponsored as usual by Heswall U3A this is held annually in Heswall hall from 9:30-5pm. £5 to attend all day or pay £1:50 per lecture. Drinks provided between lectures but not lunch.

9:30-The Science of Palliative Care by Dr Claud Regnard a consultant in this field

11:00- What is a chemical reaction? by Dawn Pavey of Techniquest Glyndwr

13:30- Gene editing in Humans-The good, the bad and the unknown by Prof Sonia Rocha of Liverpool University

15:00 - Einstein:Who was he and what exactly is Relativity [for Dummies]

Wirral U3A Group News

Crown Green Bowling

This has finished for the season but members are welcome to join Phil Cubbins at Woodchurch leisure centre to play Indoor Bowls. For the princely sum of £3:15 you can play between 1 and 4pm. A cuppa will cost you 50p!

Local History

The group is looking for a replacement for Betty Nesbitt who has recently resigned as leader.

Walkers

Just 3 turned up in Heswall for a walk that included the Dales and Beacons. En route we stopped at Dales farm where I bought some veg. It wasn't easy lugging a marrow over hilly ground even if I did pick the smallest one on sale. However stuffed with mince it fed me for 2 days. We dined in the bus station cafe where we spotted this attractive clock.

Next walk will be a 2 hour walk on October 7th at 10 am. Leader John Keggen. Meeting place TBA

Daphne snapped this monster fungi on a previous walk.



Social Events

N.B.

As from 30th September events will have to be paid for in full at time of booking. The system of taking deposits then paying piecemeal will be discontinued.

20th Sept- Little Theatre, Birkenhead

“And then there were none”- Agatha Christie £8

22nd October Anniversary Lunch at “The Manor” Greasby at 12:30.

Your £12 buys the first 2 courses. Adding a dessert will incur a further cost.

14th November Liverpool Playhouse matinee £17. Starts 1:30

Frankenstein

18th November-Port Sunlight Museum

£4. or with lunch included £8:50

2nd December- Arley Hall

Travel by car share from the Williamson Art gallery leaving 10 am £8:50

1st February Liverpool Playhouse at 2pm £22

“Woman in Black” a thriller

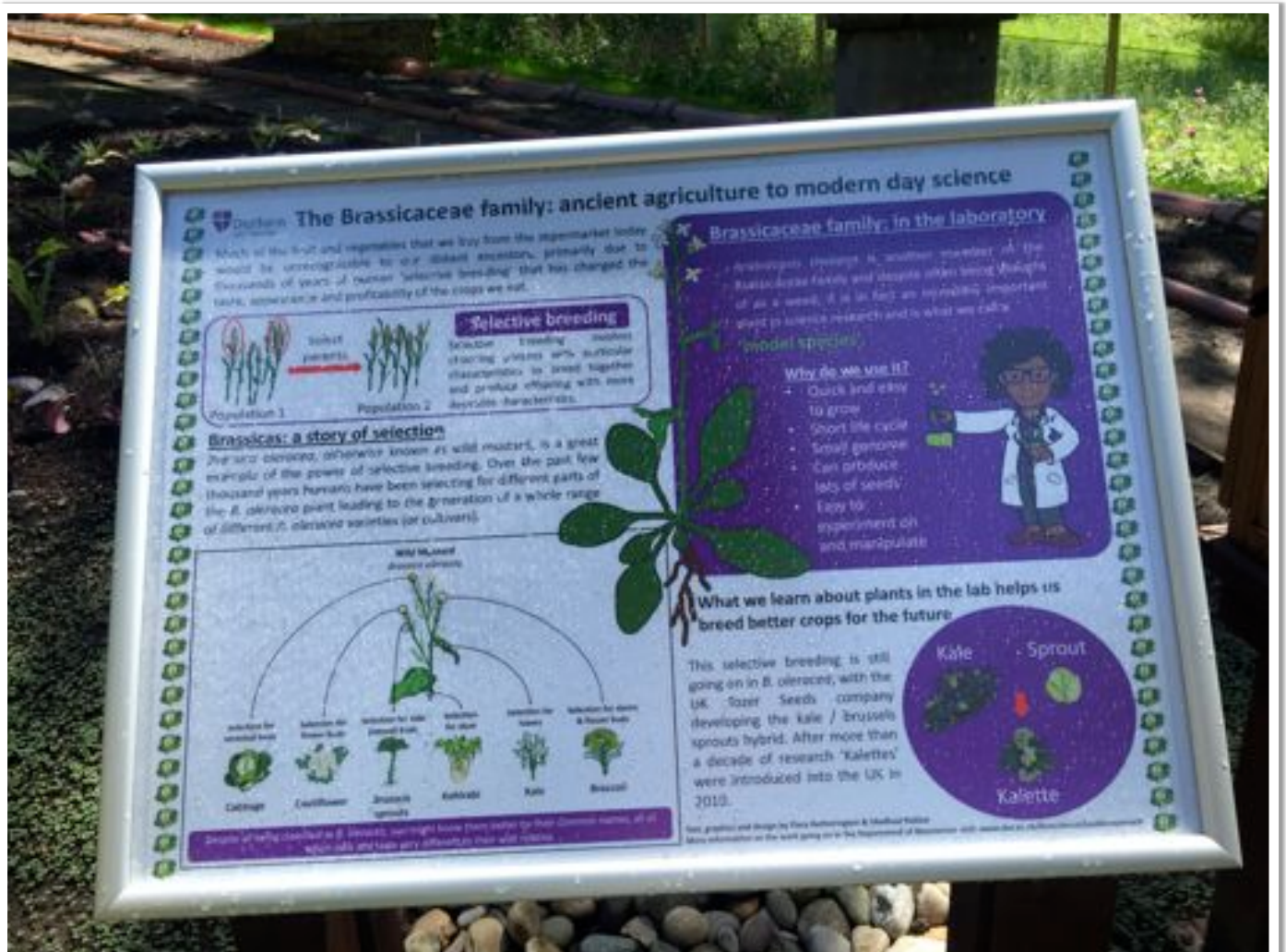
A Tribute to David Moore

One of David's claim to fame is that he booked the “Quarrymen” for to play at a dance he was organising for his youth group. After completing his science degree from Hull University he did various jobs as he travelled round Europe- with a childhood in Southport selling ice-cream on the beach or acting as lifeguard was second nature to him. Embarking on a teaching career he became a family man but still had time to complete a master's degree in psychology. His team from Park High School won a national competition then went on to compete at European level. After he married Lorna the household expanded to 6 children so he involved the whole family in building an extension to their home.

“Smile, open your eyes, love and go on”

Recognising early on the importance of I.T. he became engaged in this subject and ended up as an adviser. He inspired a sense of wonder and a love of life-long learning in those who came into contact with him. Joining U3A after retirement he was first Social Organiser then Chairman as well as heading up the Astronomy and Maths groups. I first came across him in Maths group. He combed Charity shops for fascinating games to challenge our wits and he had an endless supply of paper and exercise books for us. Latterly his illness curtailed his activities but he was still involved in U3A as Meeter and Greeter. Hovering near the entrance to the Gallery, immaculately dressed and sporting a series of snazzy ties he would keep me company as I handed out newsletters and he brought tea and biscuits to Mo and Lorna where they sat collecting the £1 entrance fee. The quote comes from David Harkins poem “He is gone”, read out at David's funeral.

Did you know?



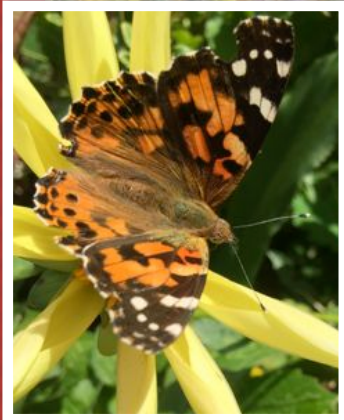
I vaguely was aware that modern members of the cabbage family were descended from a common ancestor but I wasn't sure how till I saw this display board in Durham Botanic garden whilst on the U3A holiday there in June. Over centuries humans have developed different parts of the plant to give us the range of Brassicas we enjoy today.

Continuing round this garden I learned more about the Willow {Salix} family. I knew about its medicinal qualities but hadn't realised its name was Celtic. The Celts had a knack of inventing suitable labels for the Natural World. They could have been the originator of the concept "It does what it says on the packaging". Alas -how has some advertising drifted a long way from that ideal.

As for the Hornbeam, one was pointed out to me once in a local park but I have never been able to find it again. Since it can grow on clay soils you would expect it to thrive in our region. One of the hardest of woods, it was used for cog wheels in mills and piano hammers. Its solidity defeats the wood carver. Amazing to think how the way it tightly packs its leaves in the bud have inspired humans to apply its folding mechanisms to the storage of solar panels on spacecraft. Needing them to be packed away during launch into orbit it was imperative to find a method that would enable them to be unfolded once in outer space.



It would take a brave Ellesemere Port traffic warden to give either of these 2 creatures a parking ticket for roosting in the town centre!



Spotted on a beautiful September day in Ness gardens

Can a Highway be Smart?

Well apparently "Yes" according to our Government. Getting motorists to use the Hard Shoulder saves having to build extra carriageways to cope with burgeoning traffic.

So keep your eyes peeled for the warning signs and follow their instructions or you'll be fined.

I wonder if the Government took into account recently released data about alcohol related admissions to hospitals which have increased year on year since 2008.

The statistics for the NorthWest were as follows

Lancashire	29,269
Liverpool	12,269
Cumbria	11,475
Manchester	11,072
Wirral	10,217

So can a Highway be Smart if the brains of the folk driving along it are pickled? According to these figures the M53 would be twice as Smart as the stretch of the M6 in Lancashire. I wonder if the M6 gets cleverer as it runs through the Midlands? Thanks to contributors Diane Adams, Dave Buckingham, Daphne Reid and Diana Selmer of Bromborough U3A