



WIRRAL U3A



Wirral U3A celebrates Christmas 2019

17 members of Wirral U3A went to the Christmas extravaganza at Arley Hall in Cheshire. Excellent flower arrangements were displayed throughout the building. Visitors could vote for their choice of tree in the Christmas tree section. The chapel and shop provided additional areas of interest.

However the coffee shop and restaurant proved to be a bit of a bun fight, one which we skipped at lunchtime by retreating to the local pub for food.



The weather was favourable, cold and crisp and the gardens looked an interesting place to be explored at a warmer time of year.

Diane Adams

Music interspersed with jokes, poems and anecdotes enlivened our pre Christmas celebration at the Williamson Art Gallery. The Chimers didn't even mind us singing along with them.

Christmas jumpers, mince pies and festive napkins induced a seasonal ambience. I even picked up a stray piece of holly to

Current groups

Contact groups organizer Christine Gibbons for further details

GROUP	LEADER	MEETING TIMES	LOCATION
Bridge	Derek Adams	On a rolling programme	Upton
Creative Writing	Monica Price	Temporarily suspended	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	Temporarily suspended	Oxton
Scrabble	Beryl Keggen	3rd Mon 2pm	West Kirby
Spanish Conversation	John Keggen	Thurs am	
Sunday Lunch	Madge Aitken	Resumes in January	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
Bank Holidays and months with 5 Mondays affect Williamson meetings and the walking groups			

National U3A News

Workshops

A Communications workshop is to be held in Liverpool Thursday 23rd April. This covers how to communicate effectively with members and how to raise the profile of a U3A. Refreshments and lunch are provided. Minimum of 30 participants needed for the course to run.

National Summer Schools 2020

Aug 3rd-6th	Aston University, Birmingham
Sept 7th-10th	Royal Agricultural University Cirencester

Northwest Region News

Mon 24th-Thurs 27th Aug

Once again the location is to be Newton Rigg college near Penrith, a site just 10 minutes drive from the station and close to Junction 40 on the M6. See below for lists of courses

Archaeology	Exploring the Borders
Art	Art Challenges
Art Appreciation	Iconic Artists
Geology	Lakeland Ice and Fire
History	Wars of the Roses 1450-1485
Music Appreciation	Making Friends with the Great Composers
Philosophy	North-North West as a literary symbol
Ukulele	Intermediary level
Science	Famous scientists and their stories

Cost £310 with £30 discount if booking before 31st May. Check out their website for more detail.

Wirral U3A Group news

Walkers and Strollers

December saw the Strollers enjoying walks at West Kirby and Birkenhead Park whilst the 2 hour walk took place in Heswall. Just before New Year's Eve the 2 hour walk tackled a circular that took us down the prom to Egremont then into Wallasey Central Park with a coffee stop at the Cherry Orchard before heading back to New Brighton via Rake Lane cemetery.

In January Janet took the 2 hour walk over to Bidston Hill from Birkenhead Park whilst the Strollers took to the prom at Woodside. Some baled out at Seacombe after refreshments but 3 stalwarts continued on to New Brighton.

This penguin in Birkenhead Park Visitor Centre was



about the only creature Alf didn't manage to feed on our various excursions. Meanwhile Daphne snapped this very tame Robin.

News from the Social committee

Another successful trip took place at New Brighton Bowling Alley on 22nd January. Next trip in the pipeline will be a Mersey Tunnels tour on Saturday 15th February at 1pm lasting 2 hours. There will be some steps to climb. Meet at 12:50 by the Tunnel vent behind the Cunard building. Cost £8:50.

Remember events have to be paid in full in advance.

St Peters and St Pauls Church New Brighton. A conducted tour is planned for March 10th at 11 am. A £5 donation per person will be appreciated.

April 18th Melrose Hall, Hoylake is the setting for Rigoletto staged by Flat Pack Music. 7.30 start. Cost £11.50

Possible future outings include:-

- a boat trip from Pontcysyllte
- Liverpool Football Club tour
- Ellesmere Port Boat Museum
- Snowdon Mountain Railway

Crackers about Christmas

Back in 1840 Tom Smith took the bon bon sugared almond wrapped in a twist of paper and turned it into the cracker as we know it. The prototype was 7 years in the making. Including a motto proved to be a best seller.

The notion of including a crackle sound came to him whilst listening to a fire consume a log. Eventually the snap was born.

Moving from his original premises in Clerkenwell, east London to Finsbury Square in the City was proof of his success. One of his sons erected a drinking fountain in the Square to commemorate his parents.

The same son introduced the paper hats. He toured the world on the look-out for new gift ideas whilst his 2 brothers ran the business.

Keeping the crackers contemporary the firm made crackers for Suffragettes, War heroes, Charlie Chaplin as well as great occasions such as the coronation. They also made exclusive designs for the Royal family - a tradition which continues today.

Best of the Cracker Jokes

**Which of Santa's reindeer lacks manners?*

**What's green, covered in tinsel and croaks?*

**Why are Christmas trees such a nuisance in knitting groups and sewing circles?*

Answers back page

And finally

Here's Wirral U3A's very own Christmas E(A)lf



NOW THAT'S WHAT I CALL A CRACKER!



...ESPECIALLY WHEN YOU SEE THE CONTENTS



CHRISTMAS AT THE WILLIAMSON



Answers to Cracker riddles

- *Rud(e)olph
 - *The mistle to(ad)
 - *They always lose their needles
- Thanks to Diane Adams for the star photo and account of Arley Hall visit and likewise to Daphne Reid for the Robin photo. Not forgetting all those who dressed up in Christmas finery to enliven our December meeting.
- Did you know the UK throws away 227,000 miles of wrapping paper and 114,000 tonnes of plastic packaging over Christmas not forgetting 2,000,000 turkeys and 74,000,000 mince pies.

But on a happier note a water dispenser purchased recently for my garden birds bore this heartening label

