

# u3a Wirral

[Website] <https://u3asites.org.uk/wirral/home>

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Dear Wirral u3a member,  
Here's the first newsletter of the new term. I hope you've all had a good summer. In this newsletter there are reports of activities some members did during the break as well as information about activities planned for the autumn. Janet has some positive news in her Chair's message. As does Ros about a new group starting up in September.  
Thank you to everyone who submitted material.  
Please do tell me about any activities taking place on the Wirral or easily accessible in the environs so I can include them in future editions.  
Hope to see you all on September 4<sup>th</sup> at the Williamson.  
Kind regards  
**Joy, Newsletter Editor**

## Chair's message

Hello Everyone,  
I do hope you have enjoyed your break and we look forward to meeting up on September 4<sup>th</sup> to find out if you've been anywhere interesting or had any special visitors.  
At the start of the new term we hope to begin at 10.30, which will give people time to book outings before the raffle and the introduction of the speaker. The doors are open at 10.00. The most important event to book this term is the Wirral u3a anniversary lunch, on Tuesday October 24<sup>th</sup> (12.30 for 1.00) at the Grange, Meols Drive, Hoylake where we had it last year. Cost is £18 for members and £21 for a guest. Please pay when you book.  
I'm afraid there's also the £10 membership fee to pay as soon as possible, so please bring your cash! The subscription and entrance fee is under review because of the increase in cost of speakers and hire of the hall, but for the time being it is going to remain the same as last year.  
See you soon.  
Best wishes  
**Janet**

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## Meetings

**17 July – Au Revoir**



**September 4: Welcome back**

On the Buses

Steve Joiner

**Sept 18**

Parks, Promenades and

Pleasure Grounds

Elizabeth Davey

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## Events/Outings/visits

**Wirral u3a Anniversary Lunch**

October 24<sup>th</sup> (12.30 for 1.00)

The Grange, Meols Drive,  
Hoylake

£18 (members); £21 (guest)

## Narrow Boat Cruise

Tue Sep 19<sup>th</sup>.

Full day cruise with  
wheelchair access. £14 p.p.  
Bring a picnic lunch. Meet at  
the Cheshire Cat, Christleton,  
08:30am. Car share may be  
available.

## St. George's Hall, Liverpool

Thu Oct 12<sup>th</sup>

Guided tour. £9 p.p.

Meet at 11:00am in front of  
the Hall.

## Liverpool Roman Catholic Cathedral

Thu Nov 2<sup>nd</sup>

Guided tour. Free but small  
donation of £5 is normal.

Meet at 11:00 am outside the  
main entrance.

## Groups

### Message from Groups Co-ordinator

If you think you could lead a group, or if you are just interested, please do not hesitate to contact me (Ros) either at the meetings or an email via Derek.

I am pleased to announce that we have a new group set up (details below)! Thank you to Janice for organising it!

Janet is exploring the possibility of a group going to the Liverpool Philharmonic for concerts in the afternoons.

There is room for 3 people in the French Group and 2 in the Music Group.

The Walking Group is also getting moving again in September (see below).

**Ros**

### u3a Book Reading Group

This will take place at Birkenhead Central Library, Borough Road on the second Thursday of the month at 2.15 pm.

The first session is on Thursday 12th October. Books will be provided by the Librarian.

Information naming your next of kin will be needed if you join the group (email). There are no refreshments available in the library but you are welcome to bring your own.

Parking is available behind Lidl supermarket.

**Janice**

### Buddy Group

#### Opera at the Light, New Brighton

Two trips are planned to see streamings from the Royal Opera House, Covent Garden:

Sunday 24th September 2pm

Das Rheingold

Sunday 8th October 2pm

L'Elisir d'Amore

Tickets cost £15.95 per person. You are asked to book your own ticket online. Try to get a seat in Row M where Ros has already reserved a seat. If you have difficulty booking online Ros will help you. So you can contact her via Derek or speak to her at the meeting.

#### Billy Liar, The Gladstone Theatre

Friday 17th November at 7.30 pm.

The cost is £12. If interested, please speak to (or email) Ros.

### Walking Group

The Group meets on the Monday mornings that alternate with the

## Coffee Corner Moment

### What have they in common?

The following three groups of words have a fourth word in common. Can you name them?

1. Team; flank; facet
2. Placard; portent; autograph
3. Powerful sprays; aeroplanes; gang in a musical

### Famous Opening Lines

Do you recognise which books these opening lines are from? (Hints – the author of one has links to a spa town; one was not originally written in English; one is science fiction and started as a radio drama)

1. It is a truth universally acknowledged, that a single man in possession of a good fortune, must be in want of a wife.
2. All happy families are alike; every unhappy family is unhappy in its own way.
3. Far out in the uncharted backwaters of the unfashionable end of the western spiral arm of the Galaxy lies a small unregarded yellow sun.

Williamson meetings. We've had a break over the summer months but are getting going again on 11<sup>th</sup> September in West Kirby. We are starting the walk at 10:30 from the Sail Loft which is at the bottom of Dee Lane. The walk will last about 1½ hours. Hope to see you then.

**Dave**

## Visits

### Trip to Ludlow



A group of our members joined a coach trip to Ludlow on 21<sup>st</sup> July to visit this lovely Shropshire town on market day. The journey down took longer than expected but Ludlow didn't disappoint being composed of old and quaint buildings of which nearly 500 are listed. The oldest part of town is on a small hill and occupies a strategic position on the

English – Welsh border. The medieval town was built around the 13<sup>th</sup> century castle, construction of which was originally begun in 1075. When first built the castle was known as Dinam Castle and this was the name by which the town of Ludlow had been known in the past. A wall surrounded the town with seven gates in all, but a part of the wall has disappeared and only one of the gates remains. Ludlow was the seat of the Council of Wales and The Marches during the council's existence in the 15<sup>th</sup>, 16<sup>th</sup>, and 17<sup>th</sup> centuries, being effectively the capital of Wales during that time.



The photographs include a view of the grade 1 listed Feathers Hotel dating from 1619. Opposite The Feathers is the Bull Hotel and a tug-of-war takes place between teams from the two pubs each Boxing Day. Another photograph is of the battlements of the castle viewed from the bank of the River Teme which passes to the west and south of the town. The Church of St. Laurence can also be seen in another photograph with part dating from the 11<sup>th</sup> century. This is accessed down steep narrow steps and lies beneath the existing nave. The church has many unique and interesting features dating from the late Middle Ages including



the hexagonal south porch and the fine misericords carved on the underside of the hinged choir stall seats.

**Dave**

### Llandudno

It was a wet Thursday morning when the coach left the Wirral with 6 U3A members on board. It was still raining when we arrived but also very windy. We split up into 3 separate groups and went off in different directions. We found a very nice Cafe situated inside an Art Gallery & spent quite some time looking at the exhibits & shop.

We then decided to go onto the Pier which had some Fairground rides operating but with no customers! Hardly surprising that no one was on the Big Wheel as the wind was blowing a hooley!

After walking around for a bit getting absolutely soaked, we decided to go indoors for some lunch & stayed there for the rest of the afternoon. It was definitely not the weather for visiting the seaside!

**Chris**

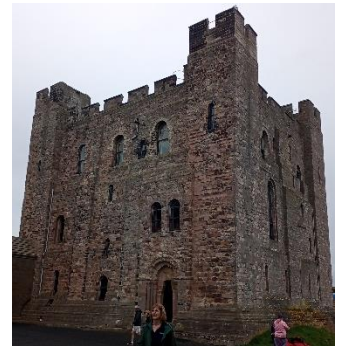
### Northumberland

After a boiling hot June, the end of the month proved to be wet, but with great company and an interesting timetable, we had an excellent five days in Northeast England. On the way up, we stopped at York Minster and saw the new gargoyles being made and the new statue to Queen Elizabeth.



Our hotel was in South Shields, right on the banks of the River Tyne, with several lighthouses.

On Tuesday we went through the Tyne Tunnel and on to Bamburgh Castle, very interesting inside, especially as it was very wet outside.



We visited Chesters Fort on Wednesday, still raining, but it had a fascinating museum.

Thursday was a nice sunny day which we spent in Durham. Unfortunately, it was degree day, so the Cathedral, the Castle and the Town Hall were all closed for the graduation. However, it was lovely to see the students looking so smart and happy with their families. We went into the market which was wonderful! Just like Birkenhead market used to be - really buzzing!



On the way back to the hotel we even had time to pause at the Angel of the North.

Friday was coming home day and we stopped at Harrogate, with a look in at Betty's.

A very enjoyable holiday and many thanks to Dave for organising it all.

**Janet**

### Poetry Corner

When searching for a poem with a July connection I came across a poem by Lewis Carroll which I am informed is the epilogue of Through the Looking Glass. I read this book many times as a child but don't remember this at all! When you read it take a close look at its form. Do you notice anything unusual?

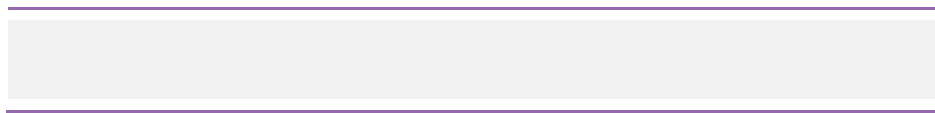
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#### **A Boat Beneath a Sunny Sky**

A boat beneath a sunny sky,  
Lingering onward dreamily  
In an evening of July —

Children three that nestle near,  
Eager eye and willing ear,  
Pleased a simple tale to hear —

Long has faded that sunny sky:  
Echoes fade and memories die:  
Autumn frosts have slain July.



Still she haunts me, phantomwise,  
Alice moving under skies  
Never seen by waking eyes.

Children yet, the tale to hear,  
Eager eye and willing ear,  
Lovingly shall nestle near.

In a Wonderland they lie,  
Dreaming as the days go by,  
Dreaming as the summers die:

Ever drifting down the stream —  
Lingering in the golden gleam —  
Life, what is it but a dream?  
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Apparently, it is an example of acrostic poem which means the first letter of each line spell a word in this case Alice Pleasance Liddell, the girl after whom the book's central character Alice is named! (Thank you to Wikipedia for the explanation!)

I had a lot of difficulty finding an August poem – perhaps poets went on holiday! I found this one on a website which I suspect had been constructed using Google search because they'd not checked the wording! Aldrich (1836-1907) was an American author and poet who lived most of his life in New England but did travel to Europe.

### **Poem In Westminster Abbey**

Thomas Bailey Aldrich

Tread softly here; the sacredest of tombs  
Are those that hold your poets. Kings and queens  
Are facile accidents of Time and Chance.  
Chance sets them on the heights, they climb not there!  
But he who from the darkling mass of men  
Is on the wing of heavenly thought upborne  
To finer ether, and becomes a voice  
For all the voiceless, God anointed him:  
His name shall be a star, his grave a shrine.

Tread softly here, in silent reverence tread.  
Beneath those marble cenotaphs and urns  
Lies richer dust than ever nature hid  
Packed in the mountain's adamant heart,  
Or slyly wrapt in unsuspected sand--  
The dross men toil for, and oft stain the soul.  
How vain and all ignoble seems that greed  
To him who stands in this dim claustral air  
With these most sacred ashes at his feet!  
This dust was Chaucer, Spenser, Dryden this--  
The spark that once illumed it lingers still.

O ever-hallowed spot of English earth!  
If the unleashed and unhappy spirit of man  
Have option to visit our dull globe,  
What august Shades at midnight here convene  
In the miraculous sessions of the moon,  
When the great pulse of London faintly throbs,  
And one by one the stars in heaven pale!

## Around Wirral and the environs

### Weekly Well Being Walks

If you can't make it to Wirral u3a walking group on a Monday morning (see above), there's an alternative! There are walks organised all around the Borough – promoted by the Council. They are free and no booking is required. You simply turn up 10 minutes before a walk is due to start and introduce yourself to the trained volunteer.

- Birkenhead Park - Sunday and Monday 11 - 12 noon and Thursdays 1 - 2 pm. Meet at Visitor Centre.
- Wallasey Village Library Walks - Monday, Wednesday and Friday 11 - 12 noon. Meet at the Library St Georges Road.
- West Kirby - Monday and Wednesday 12 - 1pm. Meet at reception in West Kirby Concourse.
- Bromborough Village Walk- Monday 10.30 - 11.30. Meet at St Barnabas Church car park.
- Port Sunlight River Park Walk - Tuesday 10.30 - 11.30. Meet in car park Dock Road North.
- Wallasey evening walk - Tuesday 7.15 - 8.15. Meet at Grove Road station.
- Arrowe Park Walk - Tuesday 10.30 - 11.30. Meet outside Red Rooms cafe.
- Port Sunlight Walk - Wednesday 11 - 12 noon. Meet at Port Sunlight railway station, near the bowling green.
- Royden Park walk - Thursday 1.30 -3pm. Meet in car park near the toilets.
- Vale Park Walk for those living with and beyond cancer - Thursday 12 - 1pm. Meet by Community House in Vale Park.

If you have any questions about the walks listed above, you can either call 0151 929 7823 or send an email to Fiona, the Wellbeing Walks Co-ordinator ([FionaHanik@Wirral.gov.uk](mailto:FionaHanik@Wirral.gov.uk)).

### A Recorder Playday (Proposed)

Formby u3a are proposing (if there's sufficient interest) a recorder playday with a qualified tutor. They stress you don't need to be part of a recorder group but for this session you must be at intermediate or above standard. It will probably be all day Friday or Saturday in mid-February 2004 at The Quaker Meeting House, Liverpool. The cost will be between £15 and £20. If interested, you need to contact the organiser ([fiona.tucker@talktalk.net](mailto:fiona.tucker@talktalk.net)) before the end of August, also telling her which instruments you would bring - i.e. descant, treble, tenor, bass, other basses.

## u3a NW Region News

### The Best Ever AGM

Monday October 2nd 10.15 a.m. – 3.30 p.m.

At The Quaker Meeting House, School Lane, Liverpool.

Open to all u3a members – so not just the committee. Led by Members of the Northwest Regional Team. No charge for participation but bring your own lunch (or buy nearby).

Registration required asap but no later than September 27<sup>th</sup>. Register online via the NW website or email the Chair: [u3anwrchair@gmail.com](mailto:u3anwrchair@gmail.com)

**Programme**

10.15 refreshments and registration

10.55 Welcome & Introduction

11:00– 12.30 the best (or worst) ever AGM

12.30 – 1.30 Lunch - bring your own or use the local cafes

1.30 – 3.00 discussion groups

3.00 – 3.15 comfort break

3.15– 3.45 Plenary