

Wirral U3A

June 2016

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Back in March U3A visited Birkenhead Priory, the oldest building in Merseyside.

View from part way up the tower steps. This was about as high as I dared venture.



Somehow Alder Hey hospital mislaid all the bed-sheets for the children's wards



Our Chairman Diane organised a session of making sheets from gaily patterned material to donate to Alder Hey

Message from the Chairman.

The 18th April saw the 31st AGM of the Wirral U3A and I find it hard to believe that this is my third year in office, how time flies when you are having a good time. Since the last AGM we have celebrated Thirty since we started and this is quite an achievement. I have been reliably informed that we were the first U3A in the North West region.

The last year has been a busy one with a steady increase in membership and the starting up of new interest groups, notably philosophy, birdwatching, French and a book group. Unfortunately the Beginners' Bridge and Mah-Jong have folded. We have new people on the social committee and some of them have taken over the organising of coach trips and theatre visits. Since the AGM two people stepped down from the executive committee but we have three new members and one of them is willing to be minutes secretary. This is good as Mo has been doing three secretarial jobs for the last two years.

During the last year we had workshops on Flower arranging, Safer driving for longer and How to improve your memory. All proved to be popular and highly informative. I hope more will be taking place this year.

Memory workshop - Mavis Langbridge

It was a "memorable "experience. Two members of Heswall U3A, Arthur Maltby and John Bews gave us plenty to ponder.

They showed many instances where we could train our minds to recall facts, including relating names to different articles pointing out that individuals will discover various methods to suit themselves.

There were examples of the card game pelmanism and a game where several articles are placed on a tray and visible to the players for only five minutes. Afterwards they are asked to recall them.

Emphasis was put on the benefit of mental exercise (e.g. crosswords), physical exercise and social activity.

We enjoyed coffee and tea and lovely cake provided by Diane. Thank you Diane for organizing the Workshop.

Network news - Hoylake Music Day

The morning session was devoted to a speaker from Coventry who treated us to snippets from his life in music illustrated by lots of his own material. He'd brought along a selection of guitars and before he played each one he told us a bit about them. His tip for writing comic songs was "start with the punchline and work backwards" We were treated to ditties about being a

baby, teenager days and what it was like teaching guitar to pupils who won't practise.

Catering was very generous then after lunch my group went off to play ukulele. As a student I'd strummed a guitar but I can't recall the strings making dents in my fingertips like this. I found the ukulele very painful to play. Our speaker kindly stayed on to help out. The singing session that followed had us belting out 4 part harmonies. Not bad eh? To round off the day event organizer Gill Russell took us through a brief tour of musical history. She'd brought along various reference books which she recommended for anyone wanting to make an in depth study.

Group News

Birdwatching – Margaret Elston

Our next long trip will be to Conway RSPB Reserve. On my recce I saw swans and grebes with youngsters, abundant wildflowers and stunning views of Conway and Snowdonia.

Classical Recorded Music – Janet Belton

We have become peripatetic. And we've several new members. So far Janet, Sue and Terry have hosted the meetings. Happily we seem to enjoy each others taste in music.

Maths – David Moore

Derek has been providing brain-teasers to get our minds into gear. Here's a sample : 2 fathers and 2 sons sit down for a meal together in a restaurant. Only 3 meals are ordered yet everybody has their own meal. How can this be?

Strollers and Walkers– Margaret Elston

Strollers visited Calderstones Park on a glorious April day. Snakeshead Fritillaries were nodding their purple and white heads in shady grassy places. Sadly my bulbs never came up this year.

Walkers suffered very wet conditions on May Day Bank Holiday Monday at Neston. Rain held off till we reached the marsh where there was little protection from the elements. As we dried out over lunch the rain stopped and a glorious sunny afternoon unfolded.

Sunday Lunch – June Kerr/Margaret Rogers

Margaret has been deputizing for June recently. Next meeting 26th June at the Grove Hotel, Wallasey at 12 for 12:30. If you have told Margaret you will be attending please inform her if you change your plans so she can contact the Grove Hotel in advance.



Thank goodness the owner of this boot hasn't joined our walking group.
Betty Nesbitt took this on the day the Birdwatching group went to Martin Mere.
I took a wrong turn in Liverpool but navigator Mavis Langbridge soon had us back on the right road.

There are traces of Iron Age occupation of the site. A small settlement has been reconstructed. These pagans made human sacrifices, often throwing bodies into lakes. Photo shows representation of one of these victims.
The original lake at Martin Mere stretched all the way to Southport but sadly it was shallow and could be drained to create farmland.



Our publicity stall at Birkenhead History and Heritage Fair in March. The Fair is held every year, giving dozens of local organisations a chance to promote themselves .

Thanks to contributors Diane Adams, Mavis Langbridge and Betty Nesbitt.

Email items for next edition to Editor - stolen.ma@gmail.com

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