

WIRRAL UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE SEPTEMBER 2015



REGISTERED CHARITY NO. 1042342 www.u3asites.org.uk/wirral

Numbers Numbers Numbers

Numbers have never really interested me but a few weeks ago I did come across some that I found fascinating and I would like to share them with you. As you know Wirral U3A has a web page and just in case you have never looked at it I would like to tell you that it is very interesting. It is interesting not only to our members but to other people as well and I am meeting more and more people who tell me that when deciding which U3A to join they look at the various web sites before choosing who to visit and then join. So the web page is very important and I have had enquires from as far away as St. Helens'.

So what has this got to do with numbers? Our Web Master Derek (who lives in the same house as me because he is my husband) showed me a breakdown of the numbers of people who visited our Web page each month from June 2014 until May 2015. I am aware that many of these people could be our own members but others might be people looking for something interesting to do. In the twelve month period mentioned the following statistics stood out for me,.

A total of 2145 people visited our home page

1071	visited the welcome to Wirral U3A page
990	visited the groups page
472	visited the newsletter
583	visited the Gallery (to take a peek at what we look like)
623	visited the committee page
1023	visited the events page
299	visited the Strollers page

In total there were **8319 HITS** (which is what looking at a page is called apparently).

The message is that our Web page is an important means of contact between us and the community so if you are a group leader, or even if you are not and you are up to something interesting and wish to share it contact Derek or Margaret (our newsletter editor).

Diane

Chairman Wirral U3A.

Antiques

In May the group decided to visit Sudley House in Mossley Hill. Holding an original collection of 18th and 19th century art it is part of the Liverpool section of National Museums.

Unfortunately the resident guide was unavailable so we relied on our own knowledge and displayed information. Warming up in the café after a cold, wet journey we next spent an enjoyable hour wandering from room to room admiring art works and furnishings. Some of the beautiful tiling in fireplace surrounds was Delftware and William Morris.

Two special exhibitions were on show. One room housed paintings on loan from Lady Lever Art gallery whilst their home gallery was being refurbished. This collection included 2 pictures sold to Lever as Turners which were later discovered to be by another artist. There was no indication that Lever realised he had been duped.

In complete contrast was an exhibition of costumes through the ages celebrating man-made fibres. This was something of a walk down memory lane which ended in the dreaded shell suit so beloved by Liverpoolians.

Reconvening in the café for a light lunch we talked about what we had seen, and enjoyed before wending our way home.

Lorna Moore

Manchester Ship Canal trip

We went up the Manchester Ship Canal on Thursday 16th July. It cost £39, but was well worth it!

We set off from Seacombe Ferry at 10.00 and it was a beautiful day! Having picked people up from Woodside and Liverpool, our guide told us what we were passing as we sailed up the Mersey and into the canal. There were many bridges to go under and locks to go into and it was so interesting to see how the canal worked. Our commentary was very informative.

We arrived at Salford at 4pm and had an hour and a half to look round and visit the shops. Unfortunately it was too late to visit the museums, but it was pleasant just to sit in the sun.

We boarded the coach to go home and all went well until we got to Liverpool, when there were awful traffic jams thanks to road works.

However, we made it without any mishaps and a good time was had by all!

Trentham Gardens trip

We went to visit Trentham Gardens on Wednesday June 17th and the 40-seater coach was full. The weather was kind (i.e. it wasn't raining!) and we arrived at 11.00. After a very pleasant walk around the Lake, during which we had our lunch, we went to see the gardens.

The Italian garden was particularly beautiful and we went to see the ruins of the old house. There were lovely views across the lake from the cafe and then we continued on, to the shops.

It was great that the shops were individually owned and there were no big chains, apart from the Works (where we got our text book for the French group).

We arrived home in good time, in spite of a traffic jam on the M6 and I think I can say, everybody had a good day!

Janet Belton

Bidston Recycling Plant

As you can see from photo front cover we were kitted out before being allowed inside the recycling shed. I won't bore you with all the EU directives- suffice it to say that by 2020 we must halve what goes into landfill. Merseyside has achieved a 40% reduction but Wirral's 37% rate is falling thanks to the charge on garden waste bins!

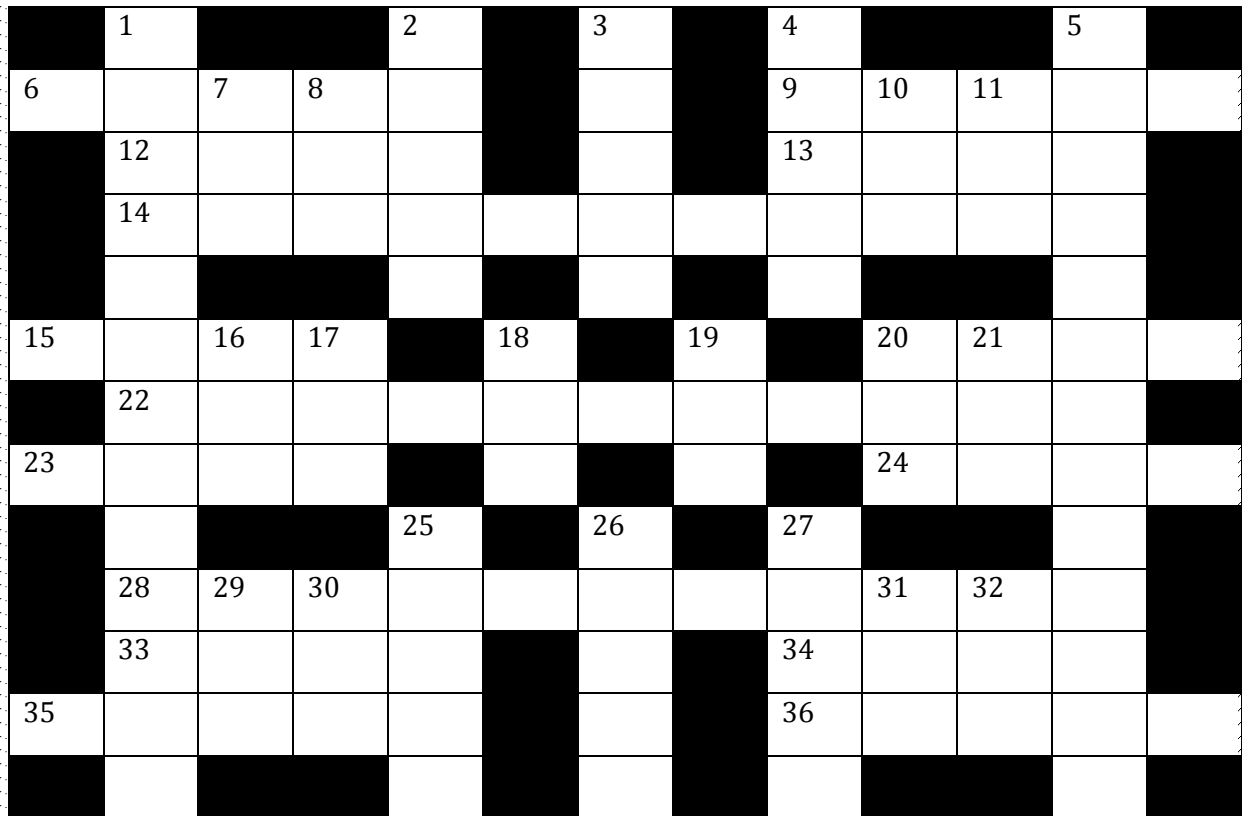
The machinery to sort the waste is incredibly simple- magnets, conveyor belts, rotating rollers and spinning discs. Whilst we were there the sirens blew and the process ground to a halt at one stage but soon the wheels were turning merrily again.

A bin wagon will service about 1,500 properties per day. And how long do you think it takes to process the waste from the moment the wagon sheds its load? 15 minutes, half an hour, 45 minutes?

In 2009 Veolia won a 20 year contract to handle WBC's waste. Sadly the deal laid down was that they would only recycle the 6 most valuable plastics which explains why nothing new has been added to the list. Those with friends and family in CWAC region will know that CWAC is constantly adding to the list of materials it will recycle.

If you want to know what happens to your green waste it is shredded at White Moss Peat in Kirby and after composting, screening and blended with additives, sold. I've never seen any for sale in a garden centre. Don't you think we should be able to buy it back at a reduced rate? After all it came from our gardens!

Thanks to Dorothy Higginbottom for this crossword.



Clues Across

6 *perfect minister*

9 *bear with cold*

12 *minor irritant*

13 *maybe an old romantic*

14 *heavily emphasized*

15 *retired heroes*

20 *people inside tin cans*

22 *won't offend your sense of smell*

23 *one on a list*

26 *I saw a youth absent*

28 *could be awkward*

33 *a bright one*

34 *fever*

35 *big occasion*

36 *dangerous drink for a serpent*

Clues Down

1 *not easy person to get along with*

2 *it is necessary for the utilities*

3 *hip or thermos*

4 *tap ran to keep clean*

5 *skilled workers of art products*

7 *house for the public*

8 *block up, it's insane*

10 *not theirs*

11 *don't stand for an untruth*

16 *use your eyes*

17 *noisy smell*

18 *member*

19 *unhealthy testament loses a letter*

20 *save the tax*

21 *lamb is this when ewes look inside*

25 *health resort hit by flood*

26 *investigate carefully*

27 *hit for fishing vessel*

29 *tide turns Dee into near Heaven*

30 *no females at the end*

31 *I'm there when leg or arm breaks*

32 *get the gist after roll up*

175 YEARS FOREVER CUNARD

I still can't quite believe I've been part of an historical moment in Liverpool history when all 3 "Queens" sailed into Cunard's spiritual home port in celebration of 175 years. From Southampton our first port of call on Queen Mary was Cobh in Eire. Here years ago Cunard ships collected Irish emigrants for America. Today those wishing to visit Dublin found rough swell made the journey by tender to Dun Laoghair a bit tricky.

Despite a murky morning we had a lovely warm Scottish welcome at Greenock and an even warmer departure that evening to the sound of pipes and drums on the quayside. Thousands enjoyed a wonderful fireworks display. Cruising through the Firths of Clyde and Lorne "Mary" paid her first visit to Oban. A much smoother trip by tender this time. Many passengers were off to visit lochs and glens or Mull and Iona.

Sailing back through the Western Isles and around the Isle of Man "Mary" crossed the Mersey bar on a disappointingly misty early Sunday morning - but not without a bit of a laugh as I explained to an American passenger "Who the hell those naked crazy guys were, standing in the water" as we passed Crosby shore. How proud I felt finally arriving at Princess landing stage under somewhat clearer skies with the Liver Birds looking as if they would flap their wings in welcome. And what a welcome! Scousers flocked in their thousands to see "Mary".

The evening concert, light display and fireworks were another great spectacle although probably people watching TV would have seen more than I did. I was amused to hear that many passengers from the local area did just that, went home and watched the event on telly! On schedule at 9:30 Monday morning "Mary" upped anchor for the Mersey bar. How exciting standing high on the forward deck watching as 2 black dots on the horizon finally revealed themselves as "Elizabeth" and "Victoria". For the thousands lining both sides of the river it must have been a fantastic sight as all 3 Queens manoeuvred to salute the 3 Graces with the Red Arrows streaking by.

"Mary's" orchestra give a wonderful rendition of "You'll never walk alone" with passengers giving as good a voice as you can hear at the Kop. I wish I'd taken my football scarf to wave about as with blasts from all 3 Ships horns "Mary" took her leave, making way for "Elizabeth" and "Victoria" to enjoy the hospitality and friendship that comes with visiting Liverpool.

Jean Woods

Wirral Hedgehog Rescue

Some of you who weren't present this talk expressed regret at missing it so here is a resume. 10 year old WHR is based in Neston. Not a charity, it relies on its founder Caroline and 6 volunteers. Hedgehog numbers nationwide have crashed to an estimated 750,000 and the species is not far off tipping point- i.e. an irreversible slide towards extinction. So how can we gardeners help?

Check before strimming vegetation or lighting bonfires. Leave a 4" by 4" gap under concrete fence lintels so the animals can move from garden to garden. Stepping stones across your pond means the beasts can climb out. Shallow bowls of water in summertime prevent dehydration which is a common problem in hot weather. If you use netting check it daily – hedgehogs have a knack of getting into trouble! Slug pellets poison them so find an alternative.

If you see a hedgehog in daylight it's ill. Pick it up with a towel, place in a high sided box and contact WHR. If it's dehydration it will recover in minutes. In droughts feed them cat food and mealworms because their prey the earthworms will have vanished deep underground.

Answer to crossword.

	A			M		F		A		H		
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	M			R		K		N			I	
M	E	S	H		A		I		I	N	C	A
	N	E	U	T	R	A	L	I	S	E	R	
I	T	E	M		M		L		A	W	A	Y
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	I	D	E	A		O		A	G	U	E	
E	V	E	N	T		B		C	O	B	R	A
	E			E		E		K			S	



Bidston Materials Recovery Facility – sorting wagon-loads of waste in 15-20 minutes



Thanks to Diane Adams Janet Belton Dorothy Higginbottom
Lorna Moore and Jean Wood

