

u3a Wirral

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

Chair's message

Well at last we have had some sunny weather. Is it going to last? I hope you have enjoyed what we had! I wish to draw your attention to our u3a Safeguarding Policy. Safeguarding refers to measures designed to protect the health, wellbeing and human rights of individuals. All u3a members have a responsibility to report any safeguarding concerns to their committee, and likewise the committee have an obligation to follow the safeguarding policy if they suspect a member is at risk. We would encourage anyone with concerns to report to any member of the committee or group leader. There are many ways in which safeguarding procedures are activated. The full document on the Third Age Trust website is very comprehensive and I suggest that members take a look.

https://www.u3a.org.uk/smart-website-search?q=safeguarding&option=com_finder&Itemid=490

I'm pleased to announce that Steph has agreed to be the Groups coordinator. She will be supported by Val. I'm sure they will do a good job.

In the meantime, I look forward to seeing you at our meetings. Although we have had a few problems with the screen with holding the meetings temporarily in the cafe, this does give us the opportunity to socialize in a more relaxed atmosphere.

Ros

Newsletter and Website Editor's message

Dear Wirral u3a member,

We recently had a Committee meeting and one of the decisions was that anyone with a function, such as Newsletter Editor, should have a back-up. I think this is a good idea. In fact, I'd started to ask people if they would like to be involved in producing material for the newsletter. I'm pleased to say that Alison has agreed to help. I think you will agree that she has a very good writing style – check out her report of the Chester Foundling Hospital talk. I'm keen for more people to provide material (see for example the piece by Chris P) – it is after all one of the principles of the u3a that members contribute to the activities and organisation. The more people who contribute items the more the newsletter will reflect the interests of the members.

So please don't wait for me to approach you, you can always speak to me at the meeting or send me material via the website. You can offer to write up one of the talks or about an outing or an

Meetings

8th July

Wirral Lifeboat Service

Brian Jordan is the visiting officer for the Wirral Lifeboat service based in Hoylake. He will talk about the Service in general and the three Wirral boats in particular.

22nd July

Au Revoir

Wallasey music group. Music from the 70's and 80's, or beyond.

Some dates for your diary

9th September

Welcome Back

29th Oct

Wirral U3A Anniversary Lunch, The Grange, Hoylake.

activity your group has done. Alternatively, it can be something like Chris has written or an announcement about an activity on the Wirral or close by that you think might interest members. The Committee also agreed to go ahead with us adopting the new website system developed by the Third Age Trust. I will be taking the training course soon and hopefully we will have a new look webpage before the end of the year. I will be supported by Dave. The webpage is a way of keeping members up-to-date between meetings. It also attracts new members.

Joy

PS I owe Giles an apology for not giving him the credit for his piece about the Cutty Saak in last month's newsletter.

u3a NW Region

On behalf of Wirral u3a, I have participated in two meetings called by the u3a Northwest Region. One was an on-line meeting which was to ask for constitutional changes about committee membership. This seemed rather uncontroversial so after asking our committee's opinion, I voted to support the change.

There was also the opportunity to join a break-out group where members from different u3as could chat, share positives and concerns. I discovered that the region allocates Wirral u3a a support person who any member (not just the committee) can go to for advice. Do look at the region's website – there's lots of useful information:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/north-west/home>

The second meeting was the Region's AGM which was held in Liverpool on 2nd July. Ros, our chair, joined me (her report is below). In fact, any member can participate. There are sessions before the formal meeting which are either directly related to running the u3a. For example, Ros and I both participated in a session on Diversity – how to ensure that your u3a membership reflects the community where it is located. Other sessions had very different flavours: writing a haiku or a piece in 50 words.

We were entertained after lunch by someone Wirral u3a members will be familiar with: Barry Humphries.

The formal AGM did not take too long and approved the accounts and the Regional Committee for the coming year.

You can find more information about what the Region does – as well as more details about what the AGM decided by looking at the website:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/north-west/home>

There are things to interest all members not just the nominated Wirral u3a Committee member!

Joy

Now over to Ros

Joy and I attended the NW AGM last Tuesday (2nd July) at the Quaker's meeting house in Liverpool. We had a very warm and friendly welcome from Gillian and her crew.

Tea, coffee and biscuits were available before we were split into workshops.

Lasting around 45 minutes each, I attended the Flash Fiction and Shout workshops while Joy joined the Diversity and Inclusion one and also the Shout.

The Flash fiction workshop had us train our brains to write a short story of 50 words and only fifty words. The Shout workshop was about promoting our U3A. It was very interesting hearing about what the different U3A groups were doing, and I felt inspired to try and advertise our group to a wider audience.

Lunch was sandwiches and fruit followed by entertainment from Barry Humphries who had us guessing the year of his songs accompanied by slides.

The AGM meeting followed. Business finished at 3.30pm.

I was impressed by how friendly everyone was. People had travelled quite some distance to attend as the Region stretches from Crewe to Carlisle. It was very interesting to speak to other people and hear their views on running their clubs. I would certainly go again.

Ros

Groups

Message about the Groups Co-ordinator

I am pleased to announce that Steph has agreed to be our Groups Co-ordinator. She will be supported by Val. There are spaces in the Spanish, French and Music Appreciation Groups. There will be more information at the Monday meetings.

Ros

Book Group

Unfortunately, Janice who has been the group facilitator is leaving the area, so the group needs a replacement. It is not an onerous task. It requires someone who will be happy to liaise with Sophie Rose who is the Librarian at Bebington Library by e-mail or phone letting her know of new members so that she can order the required number of books. Sophie is lovely, she does all the hard work, she chooses the books and ensures that they are at the library on the right day. We do not buy the books. They are on loan from the library for one month, so we book them out individually on our own library cards. Sophie is very helpful and really hopes that the group will continue to meet and increase in numbers. Books have been chosen up until July 2024.

If you would like to become the new group facilitator, please contact either Steph or Ros.

Spanish Conversation Group

The Spanish Conversation Group has started. We meet weekly for an hour in the cafe of the Williamson Art Gallery starting at 10am. We use both Iberian and Latin American Spanish. Beginners are welcome. There is no fee to participate but the café appreciates you buying some refreshments.

On alternate Wednesdays you can stay on for another coffee and chat (in English!) – see next item for details.



Coffee Mornings, Williamson Café

Everyone is welcome to meet up for a cup of coffee and a chat in the Café in the Williamson Gallery. We are meeting at 11:00 on the Wednesdays in the weeks we don't have a talk. No need to tell anyone you are coming. Just turn up.

Walking Group

The walking group meets on the Mondays (unless it's a public holiday)

Coffee corner moment

Answers to the May Puzzle

$\Delta = +, -, \times \text{ or } \div$

Insert one of the operators into the equations below:

$$(2 \times 1 + 6) \times 6 = 48$$

$$2 \times 1 + (6 \times 6) = 38$$

Inserting brackets sets the order of operations.

June Puzzle

Time for some anagrams

Name the person

UR BONIFACE

REMAIN SLIGHTER

PLANT ODD RUM

BURSTING PRESENCE

DON ARMCHAIRS

RARING SORT

Hints – in random order: 1 is an American politician; 2 are musicians (1 plays the guitar, 1 plays the drums); 1 is a footballer; 1 is a presenter on BBC; 1 has a new career as an author.

There's 1 woman and 5 men.

that alternate with the Williamson meetings.

Quiz Group

This group meets once a month at 10:30 usually on the last Friday in a member's home. **Jenny**

Visits

Aug 2nd

Coach trip to Llangollen and then onto the British Ironworks Centre at Oswestry. Coach leaves at 9:45 from Europa Boulevard. Returning about 5:00 to 6:00pm. Cost is £19 per person. Book this trip at the Social Desk at Monday meetings.

Theatre Review

The Importance of Being Earnest

On 6th June, 10 members went to the Gladstone Theatre to see Bebington Dramatic Society's production of "The Importance of Being Earnest".

We all enjoyed it immensely as the actors were very professional and the play ripped along at a good pace. "Lady Bracknell" is to be congratulated on delivering the well-known line in a different but meaningful way.

There was plenty of humour, with Earnest and Algie making the most of it, while their lady friends portrayed well the upper-class ladies of their era, sometimes unforgiving but easily relenting when entreated by their beaux. This is a play very much of its time, but still very enjoyable today.

Ros

Meetings

Chester Foundling Hospital

Anthony Annakin- Smith, June 10th

Anthony, a well-known local historian, began by talking about Thomas Coram and the London Foundling Hospital, which we heard about in a previous U3a talk. The Chester hospital was born from this London project, so it was good to hear again the terrible tales of infanticide, poverty and moral judgment which Coram had faced before finally getting his Royal Charter for the London Foundling Hospital in 1739. Initially, the government refused to fund the Hospital and so the intake of children was quite small. However, from June 1756, during a period known as the General Reception, the government finally gave money, and the number of children admitted shot up to nearly 4,000 per year. This was far more than the London base could cope with, and so six branch hospitals were established. Chester was one of the six, along with Shrewsbury, and Chartwell, now associated with Winston Churchill.

Initially, the children were accommodated in the Blue Coat School, still to be seen near North Gate in Chester today, but eventually a new hospital was built just out from the city centre at Hough Green. The city leaders were very proud of being chosen but local residents feared that the children would gain settlement rights by staying at the hospital and would therefore be a burden on rate payers (this wasn't the case, in fact).

CRISPER MOMENT

Smart Watch

My family bought me a smart watch for my birthday. It looks pretty cool. I particularly asked for one just to measure my steps and bike ride miles – (that's when I finally decide to get back on my bike). The watch is delivered to my residence. I think I've figured out how to use it but it's quite complicated if you've not done it before. You need to 'pair' it up with your phone. But I definitely don't want to be accessing my phone all the time. So, if you see me walking along talking to my wrist – it means I've got the hang of it! After all, U3A people, we are a SMART crew indeed.

Anthony emphasised that this was not a facility for poor Chester children. These were five year olds, who had been taken in as babies in London and then sent out to regularly-inspected and funded Nurses in the London suburbs, returned to the main London base at five, and then distributed to one of the six branch hospitals (including Chester) until they were old enough to be apprenticed. At that time, Chester was a 9-day coach journey from London.

On arrival, children were given new names chosen by the Chester Hospital founders. Some were strange: Mercuria Blackbeard and Sigismund Lane being two examples. However, the children were taught to read and write. A "manufactory" was established at Blue Coats, so the children could learn to spin and make clothes, and to earn extra money for the hospital through sales. At some point between the ages of 8 and 12, children were apprenticed to learn a trade until they were 21 years old. In Chester, this trade was often related to farming.

In total, 306 children were sent to Chester but the newly-built hospital only operated for six years, closing in 1769. This was because, at the end of the General Reception period, the government stopped the funding and so, once the large intake children had gone through the system, numbers dropped dramatically and the branch hospitals were no longer needed.

So, were the children "foundlings"? No, not really and the Chester hospital did not use "foundling" in its title at the time. They were not abandoned children, far from it, they were given up by desperate mothers or parents because they could not look after them due to poverty. And what became of them in later life? Anthony was able to trace just one child from the Chester Hospital: Sigismund Lane. He came up from London in 1764 at just 6 years old and was initially nursed out at Christleton. Then, after spending some time at Chester Hospital, he was apprenticed at about 10 years old to a weaver in Willaston. He went on to marry an Eastham woman, had five children, and became a Willaston farmer, probably owning at least some of his own land. He died aged 82, a wonderful example of a man who overcame a difficult childhood and made a success of his life. Against the backdrop of so much poverty and prejudice, it was a heart-warming close to the talk.

Alison

Around Wirral and its Environs

Williamson Art Gallery and Museum

Going to the Match

19th April - 27th July

An exhibition of Lowry's paintings including 'Going to the Match' will be on show alongside some of his other works together with a selection of pictures from the Williamson's collection. The intention is to place Lowry in the wider context of painting in Northern England in the mid-20th Century.

Entry is free.

Leasowe Lighthouse

<https://leasowelighthouse.com/wp/2023/07/22/a-visit-to-the-lighthouse/>

Open days are on the first and third Sunday of the month. The opening hours will be from 12 Midday until 4 pm with the last tour starting at 3:30 pm. The ground floor is free to enter where you can buy Tea, Coffee, cold drinks etc. there as well as small gifts and information leaflets. To visit the rest of the building you need to buy a ticket for one of our regular guided tours which cost £2 for Children and £3 for adults. There are some restrictions for children – so check the website or ask Janet.



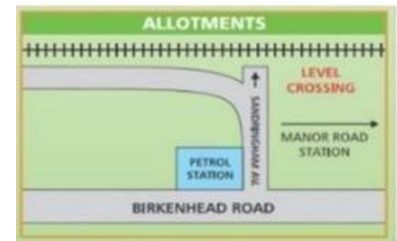
Hoylake Allotments Open Day

Sunday 14th July 12pm – 4pm



Chance to explore the allotments. There will be entertainment, refreshments and stalls selling a variety of products. There is a raffle and tombola.

Cash only please.



Hillbark Hike

Hillbark Hotel & Spa, Frankby, Royden Park

Saturday, 13th July, 10:00AM – 2:30PM

A guided walk through the beautiful countryside surrounding Hillbark. This invigorating hike is perfect for nature enthusiasts and those looking to enjoy fresh air and stunning scenery. After the hike, you can return to Hillbark for brunch and refreshments.

To make reservations or to check availability, please call 0151 625 2400 or email

enquiries@hillbarkhotel.co.uk

Heritage of Eastham Country Park

Guided walks by Dr David Mottram, which last around one and a half hours. During the walk, you will learn all about the history of the area and relive the 1840s to 1920s, when the area was Eastham's Victorian Pleasure Gardens providing extensive attractions and entertainments for day trippers on the Liverpool to Eastham Ferry. The attractions included circus acts, a boating lake, water chute, loop-the-loop railway and a zoological garden.

Walks will be taking place on the following days:

Friday, July 26: 11am to 1.30pm

Saturday, August 17: 11am to 1.30pm

There is no need to book to attend, just turn up on the day at the meeting point on Eastham Ferry Landing Stage, 1 Ferry Road, Eastham CH62 0AU.

Everyone taking part is advised to wear appropriate clothing and footwear for a woodland walk.

Southport Flower show

15-18 August 2024

It's the show's centenary. There is discount for all u3a Members: £10 off gate tickets if purchased before 31 July (£19 instead of £29). Use the promo code 'u3a' when purchasing online. For tickets and more information: www.southportflowershow.co.uk.

Southport u3a is actively involved with a rather special show garden, a design that charts

the history of gardening over the last 100 years. This will be a large 17 metre curved garden which emulates the path of a garden since 1924 to present day, depicting five period gardens linked by a path.

Southport u3a Photography Group will be there every day so have your photo taken by the garden and say hello.

If you need buggies or wheelchairs, please email Chris at southportu3aflowershow@gmail.com.

English Country Dancing

Heswall U3A Country Dancing Group has space for new members. They meet on alternate Friday afternoons from 2pm-4pm at St. Michael & All Angels Church at the corner of Gills Lane and Pensby Road.

You are welcome to visit to try it out. It's a very friendly group & beginners are most welcome.

There are no more sessions this term and the new term starts on 6th September - costs £15.

Remember to bring your Wirral u3a membership cards with you.

See Janet or Lorna if you have any queries.