



u3a
Wyre

learn,
laugh,
live

newsletter

Issue 7.22

Registered Charity Number 1184776

August 2022

CHAIRMAN'S CHAT - *Kathleen Smith*

Well, 'Members of Wyre u3a', in committee, we have listened to your suggestions put forward about various things.

Firstly, your suggestions about our main meetings. When we first started in 2011, the meetings began at 2.00 p.m. with reports from the Chair and Secretary, about Social events and from several Group leaders. These announcements would take quite some time so a tea break would occur about 2.30 p.m. to 2.45 p.m.

Although the Newsletter was up and running from the first meeting, many group leaders wanted to make verbal announcement too. So, we have decided to try out a new timetable in an effort to improve these sessions.

So many members start to arrive from about 1.00 p.m. or 1.15 p.m. that I have had a word with the TLT Manager and she has agreed to serve refreshments from 1.15 p.m. until 1.50 p.m. This will give everyone time to catch up with friends, have a natter and be seated before our speaker takes the stage.

Then someone asked, "Why do we have a speaker and have we asked members if they really want one"? For what other reason would we have a meeting?

Another member said they couldn't understand why we are changing the way things have always been done! As explained above, we had to try another way.

Another subject which was causing some discussion was whether to sit with someone or to sit alone? There is only one way to sort this and it came up at a meeting I attended some time ago.

"Diversity and Inclusion" was an eye opener about people. It was about people who say things which they do not understand are unacceptable. Something everyone was given advice about was, "Be careful what you

say and how you say it". We do not know the background of other members, their religion, education, special needs, sexuality or race. This is why we were recommended to ask our members if any of them would be prepared to become an *Inclusion member* or a *Buddy member*.

These roles would be to welcome new members, find out if they would like to sit with a buddy so they will not feel left out. They may choose not to but the offer is there. Please can some of our more confident members step up to the plate?

Membership Payments.

Thank goodness I was busy in the hall at the last meeting! Secretary Angela, Membership Secretary Susan and Treasurer Ann, spent the whole three hours taking payments and sorting out new from regular members. See below for the different ways to pay.

If you are already a member, quote your membership number; it is on the bottom right of your last card; as this makes it easier to find your new one.

MEMBERSHIP SECRETARY -

Susan Cox

Many thanks to all members who have renewed their membership for the coming year. I would remind you that all renewals must be paid before 30th September.

The fee for the year August 2022 to July 2023 is £17. There are three ways by which you can make your payment.

By BACS to Wyre U3A,

By cash or cheque payable to Wyre U3A at the next monthly meeting at TLT.

By cheque to

Membership cards may be collected at a monthly meeting.

GROUPS' CO-ORDINATOR - *Diane M. Whitworth*

I offer my heartfelt thanks to all our Group Leaders for their dedication, continual encouragement and shared learning with their respective groups.

Please be aware that non u3a members are very welcome to attend only one Taster Session, as a guest, at a cost of £2. It can be either an Interest Group or a Monthly Meeting. If they then wish to attend further meetings they must join Wyre u3a.

The Amblers Group still requires a willing volunteer to assume the role of overall Group Leader. It isn't an onerous role; it is mainly co-ordinating the walks. If you feel you could undertake this position, please contact Diane at

The Wyre u3a Facebook Page is a Private Group for Wyre u3a Members only. It provides a forum, where our members are invited to express their views, share information, photographs and funny stories.

SPEAKERS' SECRETARY -

Kathleen Smith

Due to the flexibility of our next speakers, I have managed to swap them around so we can make use of the big screen when needed. There are so many wonderful subjects out there and I hope you are getting lots of new things to store in your brains. After all we are supposed to be a "knowledge sharing" organisation. I have been given lots of subjects to explore, from natural earth to space exploration, so watch this space. Sorry, I didn't mean to make a pun!

DATES FOR YOUR DIARY



Gresgarth Hall: Subject of talk at August meeting.



Monthly Meetings are held at 2.00 p.m. on the second Thursday of every month at Thornton Little Theatre.

Thursday, 11th August.

Speaker - Steve Halliwell.

Subject - Gresgarth Hall Gardens: A Journey through the Year.

Thursday, 8th September.

Speaker - Geoffrey Cowell.

Subject - The Science of the Geology of our Lands made Understandable.

SOCIAL EVENTS -

Diane M. Whitworth, Helen Kehoe and Norma Culshaw

Coach Trip to Cartmel Races on Bank Holiday Monday, 29th August.

A non-refundable payment of £35.00 will be taken at the Monthly Meeting on Thursday, 11th August at Thornton Little Theatre.



We will be leaving from the bus stop on Fleetwood Road South, Thornton at 10.30 a.m.

We will depart from Cartmel following the last race, at approximately 6.30 p.m.

Coach Trip to Blackwell, Windermere Jetty Museum, and Holehird Gardens on Thursday, 22nd September



Blackwell is a Grade 1 listed Arts and Crafts House designed by M. H. Baillie-Scott. It is in Bowness-on-Windermere, and is a beautiful and rare, architectural gem offering a snapshot of early 20th century living. The garden has been designed by Thomas Mawson in a series of terraces, which offer wonderful views of the lake. There is also a contemporary craft shop and lovely tea room.



The newly refurbished Windermere Jetty Museum is an award winning, incredibly, interesting place that has a huge story to tell about the history of the lake through its boats and steamers. The Museum houses over 40 boats from the 18th century to the present day plus a brand-new conservation workshop. A culinary delight is a visit to the cafe, which has spectacular views over Lake Windermere. There will also be ample opportunity to take a walk around the wharf, along the Jetty, visit the model boat pond, the Old Fire Station and Windermere itself.

Holehird Gardens is the home of The Lakeland Horticultural Society. The 12 acres of gardens consist of a large variety of plants particularly suited to the local climate with its high rainfall.



Names and payment will be taken at the Monthly Meeting on Thursday, 11th August at Thornton Little Theatre.

If you require more information about any of the above events, please contact the Social Committee by email at:

A Request from the Social Committee

If any Wyre u3a events, day trips or holidays are being planned in the future by Wyre u3a members, we, the Social Committee, would sincerely appreciate it if we could be informed of your plans as soon as possible please.

This information will then enable us to plan our events accordingly so that, as far as possible, dates don't clash.

A reminder from the Committee

Please note that, unfortunately, dogs are not allowed on any walks.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

The Amblers – (Group Leader position vacant.)

Ann Smedley will lead the next walk on Thursday, 25th August. It will be an approximately four-mile-long circular walk around Poulton, incorporating Poulton Golf Course.

We will meet at 6.30 p.m. at Thornton Lodge, Skippool Road, Thornton, FY5 5LD.

Creative Writing - Ann Fewson

The group met in my absence and by all accounts had a lively session. Although the subject of this month's writing was "In the Groove" only two people did this whilst others did their "own thing"!

Next meeting: Monday, 8th August.

Subject: A Fresh Start.

Crown Green Bowling - Ken Speakman

Well, that's another month gone by and the group has endured all kinds of weather but fortunately not much in the way of rain. I must admit that I was a little concerned on the 18th when we had the hottest day of the year so far, but I think, that in general, everyone had applied their sunscreen before arriving and we got through it unscathed.

We have had a couple of new members joining the group, both of them I feel must have played before as they are not showing any signs of being complete beginners.

Halfway through the morning everything stops for tea or coffee and biscuits, and of course this is when we try to get to know each other a bit better with time for a chat. We are a friendly group and new members are always welcomed, so why not pop along on a Monday morning. Even if you don't want to play on your first visit, there are benches to sit on so that you can watch.

Dining Group - Irene Evans

Our next meal will be at the Clay Oven Indian Restaurant in Thornton Village FY5 5DX. It is on Tuesday, 16th August at 6.00 p.m. You can park behind the restaurant in the Co-Op car park.

Please note that they only take cash payments. A plus is that you can take your own drinks, alcohol or not. They provide glasses and bottle openers. There is an extensive menu which you can view online at:

Please let me know on _____ if you are joining us, and also your choice of food.

Family History - Shaun O'Hara and Joanne Mathews

Kathryn Carter, from the Family History Centre of the Latter-Day Saints Temple in Chorley, gave an informative and lively

Please send contributions to u3aNewsletterWyre@gmail.com

When finished with this issue, please pass it to a friend Page 4

discussion on how to use their family history primary resource. This is the free website "Family Search", which, in line with this year's theme of "not paying for anything", is a free resource available to everyone. It was followed by a question-and-answer session. Kathryn will be returning in October to discuss how to use their free software "Root Magic Essential". Next month, as it is the holiday season, the meeting will be a workshop on helping members with their research.

French Conversation - Clive Jones

Two meetings were held at the Thornton Library on 4th and 18th of July. The next two meetings are planned for 1st and 15th of August. As 29th August is a bank holiday, we will restart in the Autumn on Monday, 12th September – same time, same place. The group size is seven members, although between four and six people is a more realistic attendance figure. This is the highest figure of group members since the group's inception in 2014, which augurs well for now and the future. With new members regularly joining the standard of spoken French has never been higher and makes for challenging and enjoyable conversation. We focus attention on spontaneous French Conversation rather than by individual work or presentations, by encouraging free-flowing discussion without the fear of making mistakes or drying up in the conversation. There were some excellent conversations on wide-ranging topics including what we have been doing recently, a birthday and wedding anniversary, the recent catastrophic floods in Sydney, Australia, the effects of global warming, the recent drought in Italy, fruit and vegetable growing, an article on the town of Folembay near Laon in NE France and a sketch made of the town by a group member who corresponds with a French friend from that area (a topic itself that drew a lot of discussion). And finally, the story of the rescue of a family of mallard ducks in Cleveleys that ended happily following intervention by the Fire Brigade, an article for which recently appeared in the Blackpool Gazette. New members are always most welcome to join us.

Deadline for the next issue is Thursday, 25th Aug. 2022

Gardening - Kathleen Smith

What a month this has been in the garden ! Most plants have gone mad and all have flowered at the same time.

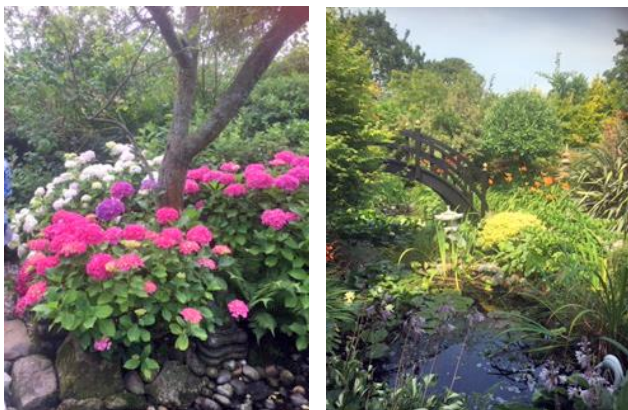
Almost every year, our group has a trip to one of the National Garden Scheme gardens. There are lots of local ones. Over the last couple of years, we have missed out and, even now, some gardens have not opened to the public. So, when I saw that there was one at Treales, Kirkham, I contacted the owner to arrange a visit on our, normal, Wednesday meeting date. Astonishingly, most of the Garden Group members were busy elsewhere, so I thought I would have to cancel because we needed a minimum of ten people to visit. After opening up to other members I finally got fifteen people interested. Phew !



You should be able to see the beauty of the Kyoto, Japanese Garden in the photos, taken by Diane and a short video I took which is posted on the Wyre u3a Facebook page.

That garden is registered on the NGS listings and is opening a few more times this year, normally at weekends.

Our August meeting will, hopefully, be at a member's garden.



History - Susan Cox

On 11th July, Rachel Sykes came to tell us about the new Blackpool Museum called "Showtown" (a Ken Dodd expression for the town). She spoke with infectious enthusiasm and the title of her talk was "What makes Blackpool Special". The museum has been a seven-year project and will be based on the first floor of the new Sands Venue Hotel on Blackpool promenade.

It is planned to be an immersive experience with AV presentations, 800 objects, 32 activities, school learning packages and six themes: Seaside, Magic, Circus, Shows, Illuminations and Dance. To quote the leaflet it is "celebrating the singers, the dancers, the magicians and musicians, the clowns, the comedians, the entertainers and acrobats who made this the greatest show town on earth"

Opening in Spring 2023, the project will create forty new full-time jobs and twenty training places. It is a non-profit charity and will be free for Blackpool residents .It promises to be a fun visit.

[For more information visit](#)

We will be having a break in August.

In September, a guided walk around Fleetwood is planned, with more information next month. New members are always welcome.

History of Art - Martin Johnson

We looked at the very individual art of William Blake, which provoked a mixed response. He is, perhaps better known for his poetry; yet it is reductive to view one discipline in isolation.

After the Summer break, we return in September to consider the Spanish artist, Francisco Goya.

Italian Group - Clive Jones

Three meetings were held at the Poulton Library on 28th June and 12th and 26th July 2022. The next meetings after that are planned for 9th and 23rd August and we will then restart in the Autumn on Tuesday 13th September – same time, same place. With the addition of another new member, our group size is now nine members. We are running the group by means of spontaneous Italian conversation rather than by prepared work or individual presentations, by encouraging free-flowing discussion without the fear of making mistakes or drying up in the conversation. This theme is also augmented by studying further articles on various aspects of Italian life and culture and learning exercises on the use of pronouns and prepositions. From the Read and Think Italian text 3rd edition, we covered articles on the city of Cesenatico on the Riviera Romagnola, the most romantic cities in Tuscany (including Firenze, Pisa, Lucca and Siena) and the town of Ariccia in Castelli Romani which has been famous since Roman times. We have completed the grammatical work on the use of interrogative pronouns and are now moving onto relative pronouns. In open conversation, we had excellent conversations in Italian on colourful t-shirt designs, a visit to Sicily to attend a wedding, visits to relatives and the story of the rescue of a family of mallard ducks in Cleveleys that ended happily following intervention by the Fire Brigade that recently appeared in the Blackpool Gazette. New members are always most welcome to join us.

Line Dancing - Kathleen Smith

I have every admiration for our "learners". To keep going can be hard work, but they do and eventually, the smile comes to their faces because they've got it right at last. Don't forget, the first hour is for teaching and doing the easier dances. This starts at 1.00 p.m.

We are, once again as when we started in 2015, having our refreshment break at 2.00 p.m. At 2.20 p.m, we start again and dancers are still learning new dances along with ones we know. The only thing which can be disappointing is, to do all the dances we know and love, would need a few more hours. Requests are always accepted for your favourites.

Philosophy - Linda Parkins

At our July meeting, we had an interesting session led by a member. The topic was Michel de Montaigne a 16th century essayist. His essays are full of philosophical insights with his own particular slants. We learned of his history and personal circumstances and had a lively discussion about some of his quotes. Here are a couple of examples.

'The greatest thing in the world is to know how to be oneself'; and 'Man is quite insane. He wouldn't know how to create a maggot, and he creates gods by the dozen' He himself was a Catholic who lived through many religious wars. He was also a sceptic. In August we meet on Tuesday 23rd at Carleton Memorial Hall when we will discuss the interplay between religion and politics.

Play Reading - Graham Bannister

The group continued to read "Amadeus". Winner of many awards, the play was first produced at the National Theatre in November 1979. The cast included Simon Callow, Felicity Kendal, Andrew Cruickshank and Paul Schofield.

The play is set in Vienna in November 1823 and it recalls the decade 1781-91. It tells the story how Salieri (A fellow musician and rival of Mozart) recalls his successful career as Court Composer, his hatred of Mozart, and how he conceived the brilliant young composer's death. With an obnoxious personality totally incongruous with his musical genius, Mozart died neglected and impoverished while the mediocre Salieri lived in a blaze of fame and praise. Salieri's ironic fate was that he was to be the only man in court to realize that "from the ordinary he created legends

– and I from legends created only the ordinary”

Our next meeting will be on the 16th of August when we hope to read “The Amorous Prawn” by Kimmins.

Poetry for Pleasure - Ann Fewson

We enjoyed another excellent session, this time reading and discussing Keats’ poetry. Although he only lived until he was a mere twenty-five, he nevertheless produced a large body of work of which we considered ten poems. Some of them were familiar but we were also introduced to less well-known ones. He was not popular in his lifetime but his work continues to be loved and admired now.

Next meeting: Thursday, 4th August at 10.30 a.m. Subject: Satire.

Recycling - Kathleen Smith

Ken is busy with his inventiveness. He seems to be able to make anything, as long as it consists of wood. During the time we could not go to his workshop, he has been roaming far and wide, bringing home lots more wood to work with. In fact, I think he could build a big shed, if he wanted.

Do you have anything you want to make, but don't have the machinery or the experience to use it? Why not get in touch? Perhaps then you may be able to say, "I made that!"

Science and Technology – Graham Topping

I am pleased to inform you that after a three-month spring and summer break our Science and Technology sessions will restart in August with a talk by Tony Ward on Artificial Intelligence.

I look forward to seeing you on 15th of August at 2.00 p.m. in the Carleton Memorial Hall.

Singing for Fun - Arthur Jones

Most of our regular members will know that Sue and I have moved home during the summer months so our usual recess (July & August) began a little earlier this year. Our next meeting will be at 2.30 p.m. on Wednesday, 14th September when our

theme will be “On the Move”. So, if you have a favourite song involving movement, whether by land, sea or air, just drop me an email and I’ll do my best to include it.

Spain Beyond the Costas - Sue Clark



Sagrada Familia Basilica, Barcelona

At the July meeting, Barcelona was the topic for the first part of the afternoon. We looked at the architectural movement called ‘modernisme’, which was very popular at the turn of the 19th - 20th centuries. Its main features are the use of curves and shapes from nature, with rich decoration and bright colours. The architect most associated with this style is Gaudi and his most famous legacies are the Sagrada Familia Basilica, some distinctive apartment buildings in the city and the Parc Guell.

After the break we looked at a propaganda campaign held throughout Spain in 1964 to persuade the population that the Franco regime had led to ‘25 Years of Peace’



We then explored the Corpus Christi festival in Valencia, dating back to medieval times.

In August the meeting will be on Saturday 6th, in the form of a Tapas evening, starting at 7.00 at our house,

. All members of the group are welcome; please bring some Spanish food and whatever you would like to drink.

Walking - *Graham & Susan Essex-Crosby*

In lovely weather, Gary and Linda Johnston led a group of intrepid walkers over 7.5 miles, starting and finishing at Cartmel Racecourse. The terrain varied and was never entirely flat, taking us along ridges, through pasture and wooded sections. We were rewarded with great views across Cartmel and Greenodd Sands over a river in the middle distance and on towards Ulverston.



There was much debate about the name of the river – was it the Kent or the Crake? Subsequent research showed it to be the river Leven which flows into the Ulverston Channel - Cumbrian geography was clearly not a strong point for many of us!

During lunch, enjoyed in warm sunshine, we were hailed by a fellow walker who immediately identified us as being from a u3a. Apparently u3a walking groups are often to be seen in the area on Wednesdays and are readily identifiable.... a slightly worrying aspect given the youthfulness (sic) of our group.



Returning to Cartmel the group enjoyed some well-earned liquid refreshments and

were much entertained by the delivery of a builder's skip to a small space adjacent to the public house where we were sat – the manoeuvring skills of the driver were rewarded with a hearty round of applause from our group.

The drive back to the Fylde Coast was viewed with some trepidation given the plethora of road works, temporary traffic lights and one-way systems which currently blight our area, and which had proved, if not a challenge, then certainly irksome on our way to Cartmel. And there is no prospect of completion before Summer 2023.

The August walk is planned for around Sabden in the Ribble Valley. In accordance with normal practice, details will be circulated to group members in due course.

Watercolours - *Christine Cutts*

Our theme this month was 'Perspective'. Whilst we all recognise it in what we see on a daily basis, most of the group felt the need to research how to get it right within art. It was a challenge and a learning curve. But that's how we hopefully improve.

Watercolour Gallery for August





INFORMATION ITEMS

Wyre u3a Newsletter

This newsletter is published for members of Wyre u3a. Any opinions expressed in the newsletter are not necessarily those of the newsletter team, or of the Wyre u3a committee, or of the u3a Trust.

Risk Assessment Advice

Members are reminded that, when participating in Wyre u3a activities, they do so at their own risk.

This is particularly relevant when undertaking any physical activity.

Carleton Memorial Hall
Bookings should be addressed to
Peter Farrell.

Peter must be notified, in advance if the hall is not going to be used otherwise a charge will be made for the room

Registered Charity Number: 1184776

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Committee Contact Details

Chairman:	Kathleen Smith:
Secretary:	Angela Porter Maher:
Treasurer:	Ann Davies:
Membership Secretary:	Susan Cox:
Groups' Co-ordinator:	Diane M. Whitworth:
Speakers' Secretary:	Kathleen Smith:
Social Committee:	Diane M. Whitworth, Norma Culshaw and Helen Kehoe:
Property Co-ordinator:	Jennifer Machell:

Other Contact Information

Newsletter Team:

Zoom Master:

Webmaster

Wyre U3A Website:

Schedule of Group Meetings and Venues


If unsure about any aspect of a Group meeting, always check with the Co-ordinator

Activity	Regular Meeting	Co-ordinator Contact	Venue
The Amblers Walking Group	Monthly to be arranged (see Newsletter)	Each month's walk leader (see Newsletter)	See Newsletter
Artists and Paintings in the 19 th and 20 th Centuries	3 rd Monday at 1.00 pm-2.30 pm	Barbra Cropper	Check with Co-ordinator
Badminton	Weekly on Wednesdays 10.00 a.m.-12 noon	Alison Hamer Pauline Ronson	All Hallows Church Hall Bispham.
Book Group (Monday)	1 st Monday at 2.00 pm	Helen Scarborough	Thornton Library
Book Group (Wednesday)	2 nd Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.	Brenda Ormrod	Poulton Library
Canasta	2 nd and 4 th Tuesday at 2.00 p.m.	Marion Mangham	Thornton Library
Card Making	2 nd and 4 th Wednesdays at 2.00 pm	Carla Clark	Carleton Memorial Hall
Creative Writing	2 nd Monday at 10.00 am	Ann Fewson	Lodge Cottage
Crown Green Bowling	Weekly on Mondays 9.50 am for 10.00 am	Ken Speakman	HASSRA Green closed until 2022
The Dining Group	See Newsletter	Irene Evans	See Newsletter
Family History	1 st Monday at 2.00 pm	Shaun O'Hara	Carleton Memorial Hall
French Refreshers	1 st & 3 rd Thursdays at 3.00 pm	Ann Burley	Fleetwood Golf Club
French for Improvers	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays At 1.30 pm	Christine Holt	Fleetwood Golf Club
French Conversation	See report in "News from the Activity Groups"	Clive Jones	Thornton Library
Gardening	3 rd Wednesday at 1.30 pm	Kathleen Smith	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Gentle Movement	Every Monday 1.00-2.00 pm	Linda Porter	St. Hilda's, Carleton
History	2 nd Monday at 2.00 pm	Susan Cox	Carleton Memorial Hall
Italian Group	See report in "News from the Activity Groups"	Clive Jones	Poulton Library
History of Art	2 nd Tuesday at 10.30 am	Martin Johnson	Check with Co-ordinator
Line Dancing	Every Friday from 1.00 p.m. to 3.30 p.m . 1 st hour beginners	Kathleen Smith	Carleton Memorial Hall

Schedule of Group Meetings and Venues (continued)

If unsure about any aspect of a Group meeting, always check with the Co-ordinator

Activity	Regular Meeting	Co-Ordinator Contact	Venue
Live Music	1 st and 3 rd Thursdays 2.00 pm to 4.00 pm.	Pauline Powell	Sandyforth Arms Trunnah Road Thornton
Philosophy	4 th Tuesday at 2.00 pm	Linda Parkins	Carleton Memorial Hall
Play Reading	3 rd Tuesday at 2.00 pm	Graham Bannister	Carleton Memorial Hall
Poetry for Pleasure	1 st Thursday at 10.30 am	Ann Fewson	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Recycling	2 nd Tuesday	Kathleen Smith	Contact Co-ordinator
Science and Technology	3 rd Monday at 2.00 pm	Graham Topping	Carleton Memorial Hall
Singing for Fun	2 nd Wednesday at 2.30 p.m.	Arthur Jones	Carleton Memorial Hall
Spain beyond the Costas	1 st Wednesday at 2.00 p.m	Sue Clark	Carleton Memorial Hall
Spanish Conversation	Fortnightly on Monday at 2.00 p.m.	Enid Vindel	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Travel	3 rd Wednesday at 10.00 a.m.	Mick Carey	Carleton Memorial Hall
Unsolved Murder Cases	To be arranged		Various venues
Walking	Last Wednesday of each month.	Graham and Susan Essex-Crosby	Various. Check with Co-ordinator
Watercolour Painting	1 st Tuesday at 1.30 p.m.	Christine Cutts	Carleton Memorial Hall



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