



Our Chair reports

WELCOME to the Autumn edition of Aughton & Ormskirk u3a magazine.

As you know this year marked the 20th Anniversary of our organisation and we celebrated in style with an afternoon which included entertainment, food, drink and a look at Aughton & Ormskirk u3a throughout the past twenty years.

Well done to all the members of the Social Committee and everyone else involved in making the afternoon a success.

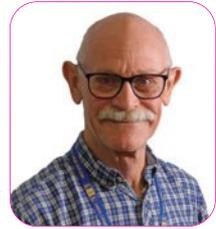
I am also pleased to tell you that at our AGM in June, we approved the appointment of Jeff Roberts, Ted Morrell and Sue Watkinson as Honorary Life Vice Presidents as an acknowledgement of the exceptional service given to Aughton & Ormskirk u3a. Let's hope that we can carry on with their good work for many years to come.

Our Membership seems to have recovered back to the numbers we

Groups Schedule

FROM time to time, we produce a Groups Schedule. This lists all the activity groups, showing where, when and how frequently they meet as well as who to contact if you are interested in joining the group.

To see the latest version of the schedule, you can [look on the website](#), where it has links to each of the activity groups; or come along to Horizons to pick up a printed copy.



enjoyed prior to the Covid epidemic, and we are all enjoying the many groups within our u3a, together with trips to the theatre, Philharmonic and various days out.

As Chair of the Management Committee we hope we are doing our best in the running of our u3a, but we are always open to new ideas and suggestions that would improve the organisation, so please feel free to approach myself or any Committee Members. We can normally be found at Horizons on Thursday morning.

JOHN TOMLINSON

Chair, Aughton & Ormskirk u3a

Magazine Distribution

THE increased cost of postage means no more 'posting' of this magazine to our members. You can either:

- **Access the on-line version of the Magazine from our u3a Website**
- **Come along to Horizons and pick up a printed Magazine**
- **Ask a friend or a member of a Group you attend to pick up one for you**
- **Provide a stamped addressed envelope for the Magazine to be posted to you**
- **Let the Membership Team know if you no longer wish to receive a Magazine**

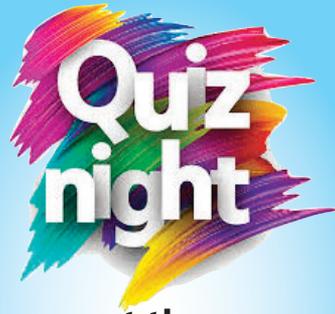




Don't forget to book for our
annual

Christmas Lunch Party

at Christ Church Ministry Centre
Friday, 8th December



at the
Scout & Guide HQ
Friday, 29th September
at 7.30pm

Join us for our annual quiz.
Tickets are £10.00 and
include a hot-pot supper.

WORLD'S BIGGEST
COFFEE
MORNING
MACMILLAN
CANCER SUPPORT



**Saturday,
30th September**

**9.30am to 1.00pm
at Aughton Village Hall**

A musical coffee and cake morning
to raise funds for the Macmillan
Cancer BIG Coffee Morning Appeal

Suggested donation for two generous
cake portions plus unlimited coffee
or tea is £5.00.

Stalls include Tombola, Cake sales, Raffle,
Body Shop at Home, Craft Stall and Cards

Musical entertainment in the main hall
The Quiet room is also available

Want to try
your hand
as a



THE Communications Subcommittee
needs more people to help produce
content for our u3a magazine.

A report on a u3a Outing, Meeting or
Event that you have particularly enjoyed
would be very welcome. Associated
photos are an excellent enhancement to
a report, but remember to check
permission to publish from people in
your photo.

Other possibilities include a poem or
short story, puzzles and jokes. See recent
past magazines for examples. But don't
be afraid to produce something novel.

Please submit articles to:
[commscomm@aughton-ormskirk-
u3a.co.uk](mailto:commscomm@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk)

Try **LOGIC** Derrick's **PUZZLE**

OUR Treasurer, Derrick Fewings has sent me his regular Logic Puzzle. Have a go at this?

Derrick, Paul, Malcolm and Graham noticed that, for some reason, their regular table tennis sessions were causing them to put on weight. After much deliberation, they reluctantly had to concede that the weight gain may be linked to the cakes consumed during the break between games and that action was required.

Each had a favourite cake. Those cakes were Chocolate Cake, Victoria Sponge, Carrot Cake and Lemon Drizzle cake. Each committed to a target weight loss. Those targets were 3kg, 4kg, 5kg and 6kg.

From the clues below, deduce which cake was favoured by which person and what each person set as their target weight loss. A grid is given, for you to record your answer.

Clues:

- 1 Derrick looked forward to Lemon Drizzle cake.
- 2 The person that liked Carrot Cake had a target weight loss which was 1kg less than Malcolm's.
- 3 Graham's target weight loss was lower than the person that loved Lemon Drizzle cake.
- 4 The person that loved Chocolate Cake had a target weight loss 2kg greater than Malcolm.

answer on page 20

Person	Favourite cake	Target weight loss
Derrick		
Paul		
Malcolm		
Graham		

u3a member Adrienne Loughlin sent this story ...

THE DANCER

WHEN I was a little girl, my mother filled my head with stories of fairies, goblins and other mythical creatures. I spent a long time searching in our back garden for a sight of one of the Little People. With no luck, I asked her just where were they? She smiled a half smile, scrunched my cheek and said: 'Aah child, you have to go to Ireland to see the fairies. That's where they live'.

Eventually, I did visit Ireland, firstly in 1986 and every year since then. I still haven't seen a fairy or leprechaun but I have met quite a few other weird and wonderful characters.

Read more about one of these characters in 'The Dancer' on the u3a website.

SPEAKER MEETINGS

THIS year we have been entertained and enlightened by a wide variety of speakers on a number of topics, ranging from 'The Liverpool Cowkeepers' (who knew?!) to 'Cyber Crime'.



Our Autumn series includes:

7th September: Fran Sandham

Solo Walk across Africa

2nd November: Stuart Elliot

English Village Life in the Middle Ages

14th December: Carol Rogers, (Liverpool Museums), House of Memories

Meetings take place at 11.00am at HQ. Hope to see you there!

Please note that there is no Speaker Meeting in October this year, due to membership renewals taking place at HQ. From 2024 onwards, meetings will be held on the second Thursday of the month. Keep an eye on enews, the website and Horizons slideshow for further details. If you would like regular reminders direct to your inbox, please email speakerteam@oughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk to be added to the list.

PAM BALL

HEOG on the 'Rose of Parbold'

DIDN'T we have a lovely day! The day we went to Parbold, we sailed away for most of the day, up and down the waterway we know as the Leeds-Liverpool Canal.

Twelve members of our 'Helping Each Other Group' set off to enjoy a trip on the 'Rose of Parbold', a narrow boat moored on the canal at Parbold.

We boarded the 'Rose' at 10.30am. The day started cool but soon turned bright and sunny. We were offered a non-stop supply of tea, coffee, and biscuits, available all day.

'Rose' chugged at a steady pace along the canal, it was so peaceful and relaxing and left us time to take in the view of the fabulous spring blossoms which laden the branches of the may and cherry trees lining the banks. Other signs of spring included baby mallard ducks bobbing along after mother and new born lambs in surrounding fields. The houses backing onto the canal had pretty gardens land-



scaped to the waters edge. We passed through Burscough and stopped near the Farmers Arms at about 12.30pm for our picnics and lunch boxes. Great conversations were had, covering all sorts

of contemporary subjects: everyone was included.

After lunch we started the return journey back to Parbold, although the volunteer boatmen who run and service 'Rose', decided to take us a little further up the canal towards Appley Bridge. We eventually arrived back at the



mooring about 5.00pm.

It was a lovely relaxing day, well worth taking the time out to just enjoy being!

Thank you to Judy Ingman and Alison Marley, our leaders.

Veronica Saporito

Footnote: The Rose of Parbold is run by volunteers and is available for hire. It can carry 12 adults. It has full facilities for elderly and disabled people including a ramp and toilets.

Judy Ingman



A Bridge to Cognitive Health

ACCORDING to the National Institute on Ageing, cognitive health (*the ability to think clearly, learn and remember*), is an important element of a happier and healthier life as we age. American researchers have found that mentally stimulating games such as Bridge offer intellectual and social stimulation which help to maintain our cognitive health.

Bridge can be played regardless of age, income or physical disabilities and it is a game where you never stop learning. It is therefore one avenue open to anyone seeking to protect their cognitive health.

Of our 78 strong membership with ages ranging from their late 50's, U3A Bridge are very proud of our six nonagenarians (*pictured below*) who are still pretty mean Bridge players and play at least once every week.

They are Audrey who is 94 (*middle front row*), Jean: almost 94 (*left front row*), Gwynneth: almost 93 (*right front row*), and Joyce: (*centre back row*), Albert: (*right back row*) and Jerome: (*left back row*); who all celebrated their 90th birthdays in 2022.

We cannot claim their longevity and cognitive health is solely down to playing Bridge, but its a great way to make and meet friends, and enjoy lots of laughter whilst exercising our cognitive skills on a regular basis.

We are justifiably proud of our nonagenarians but we always welcome new members and regularly run classes for absolute newcomers and established players who want to improve.

Why not give it a go!

Joan Pearson and John Richards
Joint leaders U3A Bridge

551 years in total . . . incredible!



A poem by Albert Hedges

(see Bridge photo left)

On Reaching 90

Now that I've made four score years
and ten,

I won't see eighty nine again.

A nonagenarian I've become,
But how did I reach this lofty sum?

I'd like to think it's 'cos I've lived
A lifetime chaste and pure,
A model of sobriety and propriety
and more.

But sad to say that's not the case,
I've had my share of sins.
Some spells of misbehaviour
And a taste for Gordon's gin.

But as our dear old Frankie sang,
'I've lived a life that's full . . . ,
A life of joy and sometimes sadness
But one so rarely dull.

Blessed with love and family
I've been a very lucky man.
Never short on friendships,
Throughout this lengthy span.

But now I'm back to the question
I posed,
How did I get to ninety?

I've pondered hard to try to find
Some tips to pass to you.
But sadly and regrettably,
I haven't got a clue.

Would you like to know how your brain works?

Edge Hill University psychology researcher, Esteban Leon, is again looking for volunteers to help in his current study of the neural mechanisms of working memory in the older population.

You may remember last year some of our u3a members helped Esteban's research project about Healthy Ageing. His latest project uses similar methods to stimulate the brain and monitor whether performance of simple screen based tasks are affected. (Unfortunately, if you took part last time, you will not be eligible to participate in this study.)

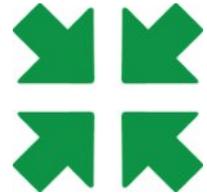
For more details of the research project and how to get involved, see the [outline description on our website](#).

A fishy tale from Derrick Fewings

IF you feel you are simply idling your time away, why not read this paragraph and try to spot the fish hiding in the text. It would be brilliant if you could spot at least ten. Chances are you will. So, let's see. It is that or feed the cat, fish for your car keys, and go for a drive. It doesn't matter what route, or what car park you end up in. I hate traffic! No. Skip personal hygiene, focus, pray for divine inspiration and, if perchance, someone enters the room, tell them you're not to be approached. A celebration is due when you get to seventeen. Shake yourself a martini to reduce that spike in adrenalin. You've earned it.

Answer on page 20

Green Things . . . Spotlight on reducing



WE are on a mission to do our bit for the environment and we'd like to encourage as many people as possible to join in.

Rather than keep adding our rubbish (*especially plastic rubbish*) to landfill we always think about ways we can minimise what goes into our grey bins by considering the following:

Reduce

Reduce the amount of unnecessary stuff we buy, especially items that contain a lot of plastic.

Reuse

Reuse items so they have a longer life.

Repair

Repair items, don't throw them away.

Recycle

Once we have reduced, reused and repaired as much as we can, we should be able to recycle almost everything else.

In this edition we're going to shine the spotlight on **REDUCING** the amount of unnecessary stuff we buy and store, especially items that contain a lot of plastic.

Reducing

Rule number 1 ~ be organised so you know what you've got in your cupboards and won't be tempted to buy yet another bottle of bleach because you're not sure whether you have a spare one or not. Don't buy what you don't need.

This goes for clothes, food and

toiletries too.

When it comes to buying things we do need, let's consider how we can reduce our impact on the environment.

It's heartening to see some manufacturers switching to plastic-free packaging so we can recycle all that our purchases come in, but the industrial processes required for plastic alternatives are also potentially bad for the environment so, where possible, wouldn't it be better to choose items without any packaging at all?

You can now buy greetings cards without a wrapper (*hurray!*). Fruit and vegetables are other examples. If there's a choice between carrots in a plastic bag or loose carrots, why not choose the loose ones? You'll only pick up the number you need and they won't come to any harm put straight into your trolley, even if you've forgotten your reusable fabric bag.



Refill shops are also starting to emerge. They can be a bit daunting at first but they are usually run by lovely people who will help you get what you need. You take your own container and can fill up on things like washing up liquid, shower gel, shampoo. Imagine how many plastic containers you could save each year by refilling. Other useful things you could try buying in this way are spices, pasta and rice.

There are plenty of farm shops in our area so, if you are able to use them, there is a double-win ~ support of local businesses and a significant reduction in the distance many of their products have

been transported. Don't forget to take your reusable bags!

Thank you to a couple of our members who have mentioned the impact of technology, specifically the storage of electronic files. There are massive servers all over the world using power and other resources to store all of our electronic data. We can all make a difference by deleting files (*emails, photos etc*) that we don't need.



Does anyone hate cutting the grass? Well nowadays you have a legitimate excuse to put your feet up

during one whole month as we are encouraged to observe 'NoMow May'. It

reduces the amount of fuel used for lawn mowers and gives pollinators a chance to enjoy extra wild flowers.

See a *website report from members* who have had a go at NoMowMay this year.

If you'd like to move towards a greener life then the best advice is to start slowly and choose one or two ideas that will work easily for you, then build up from there. If you're bewildered about where to start, feel free to contact Liz or Megan for some help.

We can't be perfect, but a lot of us all doing our bit will make a difference

Do you have any ideas of how we can reduce what we buy, especially plastic items? Let us have your green thoughts and we'll put the best ideas on the website.

MEGAN TOMLINSON and LIZ DIXON

Help out the Helping Each Other group looking for a new leader and helpers for 2024

THIS group was born around 2010/11. It was created to offer help to members who were feeling isolated due either to loneliness or a physical disablement and encouraged them to join different forms of social interactions.

It's name explained it was to give mutual help to anyone who needed company and conversation.

Meetings were mostly 11 or 12 times a year on a monthly basis. During colder months they tended to be held in the Scout HQ. A socially directed meeting included light refreshment and was often led by another u3a group; eg card making, choir, flower arranging and perhaps a games afternoon or just chatting together.

In warmer months short local outings were arranged usually with Charlton mini

coaches. They have a lift at the back of the coach and room for walkers and wheelchairs if necessary.

We have had lunches or afternoon teas at local garden centres, a visit to the Safari Park or Music afternoons at Sefton Park, a canal trip or a visit to a place of local interest.

Tasks for leaders and helpers are to discuss with the Group their ideas and then to devise a programme of meetings as described above.

The Group has never been restricted and has always been open to all u3a members and although it has a regular membership, newer members have always been welcome.

Please feel free to contact **Judy Ingman** **01695 423141** if interested.

Beer Appreciation group visits

OUR Group was started, and is run by Peter Lloyd, in January 2014, with just eight members. We now have over 40 names on our list. Our group has proved to be very popular. Just a note ~ beer drinking is not compulsory, people come along for a good day out in good company. We aim to go to interesting venues in interesting locations

We go on our trips once a month to venues all over the North West.

A regular destination is Liverpool. The pubs there are noted for their architecture, association with thespians, musicians, artists, poets and of course the mariners from the port of Liverpool. 'Ye Cracke' was a favoured watering hole of a young John Lennon ~ to where he absconded from classes at the nearby art college. Here he formed his first group

'The Dissenters'. Later this budding musician decided to form another group, we know as the Beatles.

As you can see our group would be appreciating much more than the fine beers on offer and of course Liverpool would figure highly on our itinerary of places to visit. We visited the oldest pub in Liverpool ~ 'The Hole in Ye Wall' dating from 1726.



Our destinations have included; Waterloo, Bolton, Crosby, Lancaster, Chester, Chorley, Croston, Preston and Liverpool (*once with an official Blue badge guide*). We have attended beer Festivals in Southport and Wigan and had several brewery tours.

Other destinations further afield have been Prague and in June 2022 we went to Krakow. This fine city has numerous fine bars and restaurants at a very reasonable price.

During our visit we went to the Wieliczka salt mine ~ a World heritage site (*not to be missed*) and some members visited the Auschwitz concentration camp (*a truly moving experience*). Included was a city tour that visited the wartime Jewish ghetto and Oscar Schindler's factory.

Check our [Beer Appreciation page](#) on the U3A website.

Barry Carr



● *Enjoying Chester; Ye Hole in Ye Wall; and Oscar Schindler's factory*



20th Anniversary Celebration

IN the afternoon of Saturday 29th July, 200 of our members, including some of our founders and many early joiners, celebrated the 20th anniversary of our u3a at Aughton Village Hall. An astonished Mayor of West Lancashire was our guest for the whole afternoon, evidently enjoying it all and fascinated to learn more about an organisation specifically geared to the older generation.

Other special guests were founder members and their wives. Alex McMinn, without whose vision and energy the organisation might not have been established, and Jeff Roberts.

As well as the performances on the main stage: keyboards, recorders, guitars, ukuleles, tap dancers and Musical Theatre, the Belly Dancers and Country Dancers also entertained during the afternoon. The range of abilities and

enthusiasm raised not only applause but participation, where appropriate!

Refreshments, provided by a smiling and helpful team, were enjoyed by everyone and for those with a taste for history, there was an exhibition of the history of our u3a. This deserves to be on display at another time for others to see.

In his welcome, Chairman John Tomlinson thanked Pam Ball and the organising team who had planned and executed the event. Retired Chairman Ian Grant acted throughout as MC. The exhibition was put together by Alan Starkie, current leader of the Digital Photography Group.

It is testament to the success of our u3a that so many members used their skills, knowledge and time to put together an ambitious programme for the benefit of the membership as a whole. Thanks are due to them all.



All photographs by Bill Soens







Another HF Holiday success!

ON Monday 17th April, 59 members of the Aughton & Ormskirk U3A made their way to the HF House Derwent Bank on the shores of Derwentwater in Portinscales for the Spring Walking and Leisure holiday.

After checking in, afternoon tea was served at 4.00pm in the Orangery, which enabled everyone to relax after their drive from Ormskirk.

For the energetic, this was followed by a putting competition on the challenging putting green at the house. Dermot Glennon was our Referee with Wafa Alwan acting as his Secretary. The event was won by Colin Latimer with Colin Ratcliff and David Moore achieving the distinction of having a 'hole in one'.

Prizes were presented at the dinner in the evening.

On Tuesday morning, we awoke to clear blue skies which remained with us for the remainder of our stay.

After a hearty breakfast and picking up packed lunches the walkers split into three groups for a long, medium, or short walk prepared by leaders organised by Barbara Carter.

The non-walking members also collected their packed lunches and then set about exploring the area by the local bus service which took them to Buttermere, Windermere and Keswick just to mention a few places. Trips were also taken in the launches on the lake and visits to the 'Theatre by the Lak'e in Keswick.

During the dinner that evening a quiz was placed on each table forming eight teams. Some sheets were completed during dinner, but the final round was

not started until after the coffee which was served in the bar area. Sue Clark's team were the eventual winners with Bob Broughton's team in second place.

Wednesday followed a similar pattern with different walks on offer with the leisure group again exploring the local area and making full use of their bus passes and enjoying their packed lunches in various parks or by the lake and hillsides.

After dinner the house provided access to the HF Holidays national quiz, won by John Tomlinson and his team.

Thursday was the final full day, without any organised walks with groups heading off on their own routes or visiting Keswick market and shops.

After the dinner it was time to pack for home and regretfully after a final hearty breakfast on Friday, we all headed home after a most enjoyable five days.

Pictured: Afternoon tea for Sue Clark, Mo Billinge and Colin Latimer. [More pictures on the website.](#)

The Walking and Leisure Holidays are organised by a group of U3A walking group members acting as Aughton and Ormskirk Walking and Leisure Group. Currently we are organising two holidays per year ~ Spring and Autumn.

The Autumn holiday this year, which is fully subscribed is to the HF House Peveril of the Peak in Dovedale Derbyshire.

The Spring holiday 2024 is to the HF House, Newfield Hall, Malhamdale in the Yorkshire Dales. There are currently five double rooms available. Further information can be obtained from John Spurr on 01695 229538.



Let's all stamp on it

USED postage stamps are a way of aiding charities without a great deal of effort on our part. So what happens to these used stamps? Well usually after arriving at the Charity they are bagged up into amounts of 1kg and sold on to dealers who then possibly trawl through all the stamps in the hope of finding several stamps that are worth selling on as single items.

It's doubtful they will find a penny black but who knows stranger things have happened. The rest are possibly again re-sold. The charities do make money out of this but you can imagine how many stamps it takes to fill a kg . . . it will be a very, very big bag.

If you spend any time at HQ, you will see the magazine display unit in the small room, and in this is the partition where used postage stamps are collected. Please



continue to add your used postage stamps, both foreign and British to this collection, but please leave between a quarter and a half inch border around each stamp or if a line of stamps around the whole group, this is important as it makes it easier to remove the stamp without any damage.

At the moment we take them to a local Charity in Ormskirk so no postage costs are incurred.

After cutting out the stamps to add to the collection the remainder of the envelopes can be recycled in your paper bin so it's good news all round and no waste whatsoever.

Who knew that helping a charity could cost nothing but a few minutes of our time. So thank you to everyone for their donations of used stamps.

The Green Team



IT'S that time of year again time to renew your membership.

You can renew online **NOW** by using the link in the email we sent you on 19th August or *by visiting this page.*

For those of you who prefer to fill out a paper form, you'll be pleased to hear that we've simplified the renewal form for this year. You can download it

from the website and post it to the address on the form or come into Horizons from 14th September.

Please note, for those aged 90 or over on 1st October 2023, membership is free. However, you do still need to renew and it's not possible to get free membership online so you will have to complete a paper form.

We will **NOT** be able to process renewals at Horizons before 14th September so please wait until at least this date. The membership year runs from 1st October to 30th September every year, therefore, please renew your membership by the end of October.

Have you tried Ten Pin Bowling?

WE are a small group of enthusiasts with varying abilities, but who love to meet and play together. All u3a members are welcome.

At the Ocean Plaza, Southport, Mondays, 10.00am until noon. It is not too strenuous . . . give the leaders a call: **Gillian and Noel Skinner** on **01704 579085**. Below are six regulars: Freddy Castro, Mike Leah, Mike Wall, Jill Skinner, Noel Skinner and Mal Miller.



Poet's Corner

Connemara Sea

*I must rest awhile where wild orchids
dream
And Sea Pinks sway to the tune of the
Skylark
Where mistress rocks await the homeward
tides
Where land meets sea and sea meets sky
And rainbows swoon on a western breeze*

Connemara Land

*Today I watched a cloud fall from the sky,
It slipped and slithered down the grey
black mountain
Towards the head bowed tip-toeing sheep
That grazed by a water's edge
And raced and rippled over shining rocks
Towards a hungry sea*

By Francis Loughlin

I DECIDED I wanted to be a journalist at the

Meet Ann Todd

age of 14. Nobody knew why. I was the eldest of five children growing up in my home town of Warwick on a council estate. There were no journalists in my family.

My overbearing father scoffed at my dream but I persevered. I did two paper rounds morning and evening, so I decided to write an article on life as a paper girl about the early mornings, rainy days, scary dogs growling through the letter box, people complaining I was late, all before I got changed into my school uniform to get the bus to Stratford Grammar School for girls. I sent the article to the editor of the Warwick Advertiser and what joy I got a reply and he published my story in the newspaper. That was the beginning of my quest as a journalist.

I was a member of the British Red Cross juniors so I wrote a play about the founder of the Red Cross movement, Henri Dunant, and it was staged at the local hall and that was also published in the Advertiser ~ I was on a roll !

Not to boast, but I always came top of my class in English and the Head Mistress, as they were then, said I should get a University place but my father said I should get married and have babies and made me leave school. Undeterred I kept writing to the Advertiser editor asking for a job and saved pocket money from my Granny to pay for Pitmans shorthand lessons in the hope of getting on the paper one day.

In those days the Advertiser only allowed one woman reporter ~ scandalous, but luck came my way when the paper's only woman became pregnant and I got her job. Happy Days at the 'Tizer' as we called it. I was lucky to be the paper's theatre critic as none of the

Theatre meeting Dorothy Tutin, Christopher Plummer and the like.

After completing my indentures at the Advertiser I went for bigger daily papers, and the Liverpool Echo was the first to give me an interview. I got the train to Lime Street feeling nervous in the big city, as it was to me then. Luckily I was interviewed by the proprietor of the Post and Echo, Sir Alec Jeans, and I discovered he loved the theatre like me so I got the job as an Echo news reporter. Lots of interviews came my way; stars like Alec Guinness, Gregory Peck, Frankie Vaughan, Cilla Black, Paul McCartney and Eric Sykes. I was in heaven.

More fun was to come for lucky 'Toddy' (*as I was nicknamed*). The Echo sports editor asked if I'd like to be the paper's first woman sports writer and I jumped at the opportunity. Woman sports writers were a rarity then and as far as I knew there were only two: Julie Burchall of the Observer and me! I had a ball travelling all over the country and abroad.

Alex Ferguson, the then Aberdeen manager, invited me to his home for my interview with him after the match, to the envy of the male sports writers and I met his wife and sons. I was sent to Portugal twice when Liverpool were drawn against Benfica in Lisbon. I interviewed the manager, players and the Club's owner, a famous wine merchant, who insisted I sit in his special box and not the press box. I was ferried around Lisbon in the club's car and on the day I went home I was taken to the Club's headquarters to be presented with a gold model of a Portuguese sailing ship and six bottles of the best Portuguese wine. It doesn't get any better than that does it? **ANN TODD**





Plant and Produce Swap



DO you have surplus fruit, veg or plants which you have grown yourself?

On **Thursday 21st September** at Horizons we are holding a Plant and Produce Swap. The idea is that you bring along your surplus plants and produce, clean and clearly labelled with the variety and your name, and swap for other members' contributions. Fruit and veg should be in bags.

If you don't have anything to swap but would like to take something away, just make a small donation. We don't want anything left over at the end of the session, so please take any leftovers home

with you.

If you have any questions, please see either **Colin Russ** or **Pam Ball** at Horizons, or phone 07974 749362.

Colin has once again excelled himself at the Southport Flower Show, winning a Gold Medal on behalf of the Alpine Garden Society with a stunning display of alpines and other plants in upcycled containers.

Colin also achieved First Prize for three pots of alpine plants, Second Prize for three succulents and Third Prize for one succulent.

Well done Colin!



Our Drama Group



A HUGE thank you to all of those who supported our last production in May, 'More Tea, Vicar' and 'What happens in Vegas'. The group had a great time putting it all together.

We are now busy rehearsing for our next play, 'Never Mind The Butler', an hilarious comedy with a twist which tells the story of how the Uppington family attempt to keep control of the family estate. Set in 1914 there are many recognisable Downton Abbey figures. There are plenty of misunderstandings and red herrings which will keep you

entertained.

'Never Mind The Butler' will be performed at Aughton Village Hall on Friday 24th and Saturday 25th November at 7.30pm. Tickets, priced £13.50 to include a hot pot supper followed by a sample of Mrs Purvis's baking, will be available at Horizons from late September.

We do hope you will join us for an evening of laughter.

Logic Puzzle answer:

DERRICK: *Favourite cake:* Lemon Drizzle; *Target weight loss:* 5.

PAUL: *Favourite cake:* Chocolate; *Target weight loss:* 6.

MALCOLM: *Favourite cake:* Victoria Sponge; *Target weight loss:* 4.

GRAHAM: *Favourite cake:* Carrot cake; *Target weight loss:* 3.

Derrick's 17 fish are: eel, ling, brill, tench, sole, orfe, catfish, trout, carp, tetra, skipper, ray, perch, roach, dace, hake and pike. I could find only ten. If you can get all 17, then well done. *Editor*

PAYPAL

OUR u3a uses PayPal to process your online membership payments, whether you choose to pay with your debit card, credit card or your own PayPal account. You DO NOT need to open a PayPal account to make your payment. There is a [link to the procedure and some handy screenshots on the 'Join Us' page](#) of the website and in the Renewal email that was sent to you on 19th August.

THEATRE VISITS



KATHY ISHERWOOD and
JUDY KIRKHAM are
currently taking
bookings for the
following productions:

Empire: 11th October

CALENDAR GIRLS

Empire: 23rd-28th October

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR

Empire: 17th January 2024

THE FULL MONTY

Royal Court: 5th Sept-28th October

BOYS FROM THE BLACKSTUFF

For further details and to book, pop into
Horizons any Thursday or email

kathyishy@yahoo.co.uk or

judykirkham43@gmail.com

Cost is approximately £30.00 including
coach transport.

New leaders for Textile Group

THE Textile Group have two new leaders
after Alayne and Marilyn 'retired'.
Contact **Alison Litherland** on 07771
644 678 or **Jayne Shepherd** on 01744
601 043 for more information.

We had our last session on the 26th
July before closing for a summer break,
and will restart on Wednesday, 6th
September.

Why not come along and have a chat
over a cup of tea and see if anything
would interest you. We are a friendly
Group who meet every week and will
make you feel very welcome. During the
year we try to hold workshops,
demonstrations and 'show and tell'
events.

'Once Upon a Time'



MUSICAL THEATRE GROUP

Our next show is at
Ormskirk Civic Hall

Friday, 10th November. 7.30pm

**Saturday, 11th November, a
Matinee at 2.30pm and again
at 7.30pm**

**Tickets are £8.50 Adult
£5.00 Children**

Aughton & Ormskirk U3A Musical
Theatre Group presents their next
musical titled 'Once Upon a Time'.

It is set in an apartment building for
retired thespians, called 'Falling Stars'.
Next to the building is a meeting hall
called 'Stage Door', which is the
residents' meeting place.

The residents lack lustre and are
depressed, until a new resident called
Penny joins them. She will take you on
a journey to meet all the residents and
what they did with their lives.

With witty tales and upbeat music,
we go on a roller coaster ride as they
fight to save their hall from becoming
the next car park.

Tickets are on sale at Horizons in
September or you can contact **JOHN
HARDIKER** on 0791-2879-822 or
online from

<https://www.ticketsource.co.uk/u3amtg>

CHAIR:

John Tomlinson

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VICE CHAIR:

Pamela Ball

HONORARY SECRETARY:

Sheila Kierans

e: secretary@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk

HONORARY TREASURER:

Derrick Fewings

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ASSISTANT TREASURERS:

John Tomlinson

Deirdre Slater (co-opted)

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Mike Rimmer

CHAIR of SOCIAL:

Paul Andrews

CHAIR of FINANCE & RESOURCES:

John Tomlinson

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Les Rippon

OTHER COMMITTEE MEMBERS:

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Megan Tomlinson

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Do you remember tales from your childhood?

Have you shared stories with a younger generation? Read on ...

At the 20th birthday party, the Mayor of West Lancashire was fascinated to learn more about our u3a and how it is specifically geared to those who are retired. One of the aims for her year in office is to pass memories down from older to younger generations. She made a plea for tall tales, stories passed down through families, to share with the young people of West Lancashire, and wondered whether any of our members might remember stories from childhood. If anyone has a memory to share then email billandsuew@gmail.com . . . ready for the next magazine?

SUE WATKINSON



John Tomlinson



Pamela Ball



Sheila Kierans



Megan Tomlinson



Derrick Fewings



Liz Dixon



Alayne Trigwell



Alex McMinn



Mike Rimmer



Paul Andrews



David Blanchflower



Ian Grant



Bob Carlton



Willem Wiechers



Les Rippon



Bill Evans

20th Anniversary thanks

A HUGE thank you to all those who helped to make our 20th Anniversary Celebration such an enjoyable and entertaining occasion.

The Planning Team began work in January, and many meetings,

emails and phone calls later, everything came together on 29th July. It was an honour

and a privilege to work with

so many talented,

imaginative and dedi-

cated people ~ well done

everyone!



Celebration

PAM BALL

20th
ANNIVERSARY
Celebration



Charity No 1105255