

# u3a

Aughton  
and Ormskirk  
*Magazine*

Volume 19 ~ No 1  
March 2022



A QR code to the u3a website



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# Our Chairman reports



WELL, here we are two years on from the start of the Pandemic and I'm happy to tell you that our u3a has come through all the problems and difficulties we encountered to be just as strong and vibrant as we were pre Covid.

Our groups and activities are meeting again and enjoying all the benefits our u3a has to offer.

So thank you for your continued support.

However, there are always problems along the way which have to be dealt with. One of these was maintaining the number of our Trustees. Our current Constitution requires four Trustees plus Chairman, Treasurer and Secretary. Due to retirement, resignations, and the lack of members coming forward to fill these roles, we would find ourselves in breach of our current Constitution for the ensuing years.

Therefore the present Trustees and members of the Management Committee decided the best route forward would be to combine both of

them into one Committee, so that all elected members would be Trustees.

Another problem which occurred due to Covid was the inability to hold our AGM, therefore we propose to add a clause to our Constitution to allow virtual meetings in future years.

These propositions along with one or two other minor ones have been approved by the Third Age Trust, and accords with the Constitutions which have been adopted by the vast majority of u3as throughout the country.

A copy of our proposed new Constitution with the above changes will be available on our web site in good time before our AGM which is scheduled for the **16th June 2022**.

Finally, as Chairman of your u3a, with the backing of your Trustees and Management Committee, I feel that this is the best way forward for the long term future of Aughton & Ormskirk u3a.

**JOHN TOMLINSON**

## Groups Schedule

YOU will find, enclosed with this magazine, a printed 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.

The Schedule is correct as of March 2022, but is subject to change from time to time. To see the latest version, you can look on the website or come along to Horizons to pick up a printed copy.

*This Magazine is dedicated to those members, much missed and fondly remembered, who did not make it through these last two difficult years. With appreciation for their many and varied contributions to this u3a like sharing their time, talents, skills and knowledge, using their organising abilities, supporting and attending meetings and events, spreading fun and good humour, being a friend and so much more. Our kindest thoughts go also to their families and friends.*

● Cover photograph taken in Ruff Wood by Bill Soens of the Digital Photography group.

# Searching for hope in the 'Lockdown'

DURING the past two years, isolated at home, many of us switched on our computers and smartphones and ventured into cyberspace, searching for indications of a return to normality, reasons to be cheerful, ways of keeping busy, a sense of hope for the future and more.

But you actually needed to look no further than our very own u3a website to find interesting, creative, innovative and even inspiring activities and ideas from our very own multi-talented members! At the time, the Web Team collated and published a great deal of lockdown-related content sent into us.

Much of that content has now disappeared into the background, overtaken, first by meeting restarts and now by the current and future events to enjoy and look forward to. But the Lockdown content is not completely lost and can be revisited by judicious searching on the website.

It is really interesting and heartening to see how well many Groups, committees and individuals reacted and adapted during those challenging times in order to stay active and engaged. And the Search feature on the website is the easiest way to retrieve and view their

efforts and admire the resilience and adaptability demonstrated. This gives hope that the u3a will keep going on into the future.

So do have a go at Searching for lockdown-related content as follows:

Load the Home Page via the web address:

[www.aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk](http://www.aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk)

- Look for the Search Box. (It appears on other pages too,)
- Type into the Search Box, a word or phrase you wish to search for eg. 'Lockdown' or something more specific like 'Creative Writing during Lockdown'.
- One or more hits matching the criteria will appear.
- Click on the link for the Page or Post to be displayed.
- Below is a table with some searches to try out.

You'll find some lockdown website content concerned with disseminating u3a information from committees etc. But some offered words and pictures, created by Groups and individual members, providing diversions for that time of social isolation and maybe even good ideas to help us move forward ~ with hope ~ into a still uncertain future.

## For instance, to see ...

- How some Groups carried on regardless, remotely
- How the Committees kept us informed
- Lovely local images from late Spring 2020
- Delightful Festival Greetings 2020
- An eclectic selection of poems
- How busy the Textile and Quilting Group were
- Varied examples of how we embraced social media
- A Group developed and run especially for the duration of social distancing

## Try Searching for ...

Our Virtual u3a  
Keeping in Touch  
West Lincs in Bloom  
Christmas Card Gallery  
Poems for Lockdown  
Lockdown Projects  
Zoom  
Science during Lockdown

THE WEB TEAM

# The Queen's Platinum Jubilee celebrations

ON 6th February this year, Her Majesty The Queen became the first British Monarch to celebrate a Platinum Jubilee, marking 70 years of service to the people of the United Kingdom, the Realms and the Commonwealth.



To celebrate this unprecedented anniversary, events and initiatives will take place throughout the year, culminating in a four-day UK bank holiday weekend from Thursday 2nd to Sunday 5th June. The

Bank Holiday will provide an opportunity for communities and people throughout the United Kingdom to come together to celebrate this historic milestone.

Our u3a will be joining in with a 'Summer Dance' to

be held at Aughton Village Hall on Saturday 25th June, starting at 7.00pm. There will be a supper provided and dancing to Roller Coaster, who play 60s and 70s music. Tickets will be on sale soon.

## Vegan Lunch

TICKETS are still available for this lunch on at St Michaels Church Hall on Wednesday, 23rd March, 12 noon for 12.30. Tickets on sale at Horizons at £13.00. Bring own drinks and glasses.

## Quiz Night

A QUIZ night, complete with a hot pot supper, will be held at headquarters on Friday, 30th September. More details will be available in the next magazine. We are hoping for 'teams' of 8 people.

## Horizons slideshows

FOR the last few months we have been putting together a slideshow using MS Powerpoint which runs continuously at Horizons on Thursday mornings. It gives information about forthcoming

events, changes in group meeting arrangements etc, and is updated every week.

If you have information you would like to appear in the slideshow, please contact Pam Ball in the first instance on 07974 749362 or email Pamela on [ballp7416@gmail.com](mailto:ballp7416@gmail.com)

## Commemorative 50p

PLANS for the Royal Mint to produce a commemorative 50p piece to add to the celebrations for the Platinum Jubilee for Prince Andrew have just been scrapped.

No reason was given but her Majesty has our sympathy! **Bill Evans**



# Speaker Meetings

*Please note: as from 3rd March all talks will take place at 11.00am at HQ, following Horizons.*

LAST year we Zoomed our way through lockdown with several well attended, on-line Speaker Meetings, with topics ranging from Agatha Christie to Mason Bees. Our first talk this year was also via Zoom, when **Neil Stevenson** entertained us with a fascinating talk on 'Ancient Egyptian Burial Practices' (one member thought his wife was paying unusually close attention).

On Thursday, 3rd March, historian and writer **Julia Clayton** made a



welcome return, this time in person, and gave a good size audience a fascinating insight into 'The Grand Tour.' After describing in detail the reasons and preparations for the tour, Julia focussed on three prominent Lancastrians: Charles Townley of Burnley, Henry Blundell of Ince

Blundell, and finally John Foster Junior, a young architect, whose legacies of works of art which can still be seen today both locally and nationally.

On Thursday, 7th April, A&O u3a member Bill Soens will present an intriguing talk entitled 'Fakes and Forgeries: is there a difference?' Bill is a keen photographer and art enthusiast, and his talk promises to be both interesting and entertaining.



On Thursday, 5th May, we will welcome back **Sid Calderbank**. Some of you will remember Sid from the Local History meeting last December,



when he gave a most entertaining and enjoyable performance to celebrate Lancashire Day.

This time he will speak about 'The Lancashire Cotton famine, or how we survived the American Civil War, 1861-65' and will illustrate his talk with songs, poems and newspaper reports.

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## Guest at Horizons

ON Thursday, 24th March at Horizons, we will welcome **Maria des Landes**, *Learning and Development Manager from Citizens Advice*. Maria will answer your queries about services offered by Citizens Advice and will offer volunteering opportunities.

## Sunday Social

THE Sunday Social group meet at the Scout & Guide HQ between 2.00 to 4.00pm. Don't miss out.

Come and join us for some light hearted fun and chat.

Only £1.50, includes a cuppa & biscuits (& sometimes CAKE!) and maybe something to interest and entertain you!

### Sunday, 27th March

Our Sunday Social member, Vaughan Wall, will entertain us with some songs, slideshows and movie clips of places of local interest and not so local interest! Sit back and enjoy, plus a quiz.

### Sunday, 24th April

Tony Crimlisk and the u3a Ukuleers return to delight you with their great musical choices - lots to sing along with.

**You are all most welcome!**

# u3a Christmas

AFTER the cancellation of the u3a Christmas Lunch in 2020 because of Covid, we were so pleased to get together once again. The Social sub-committee pulled out all the stops to arrange a lovely meal courtesy of Martin's Caterers, and dancing to the music of the Phil Shotton Trio with vocalist Adele Lifshitz. The photographs show that the afternoon was a great success and that everybody will be looking forward to the next Christmas social to be held on the 9th December, 2022.



## DANCING THE



# Lunch 2021



## NIGHT AWAY

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# Southport u3a to build a show garden

SOUTHPORT u3a have come to an agreement to build a Show Garden at this year's Southport Flower Show and to have a stand alongside to promote the u3a in general. The Show Garden will be built and managed by their Gardening Group to celebrate the u3a's 40th Anniversary.

Alongside this will be a u3a stand which will enable them to talk to existing and prospective members. Their 'Performing Groups' will also be playing on the Music Stand at times throughout the Show.

**In recognition of this support for the Show, all u3a members will be able to book tickets for the show at a specially discounted rate of £18.00, compared to the gate price of £27.00.**

The show has already announced an array of personalities from the gardening and restaurateur world, including 'The Hairy Bikers', Ellis Barrie, NW winner of The Great British Menu, Adam Frost

of Gardeners World ~ and to keep the kids happy ~ Justin Fletcher (*Mr Tumble*).

Announcing the Show Garden venture, Lisa Fryer, Southport u3a Gardening Group leader said: "The Gardening Group are thrilled and excited to undertake this Show Garden. We have some great ideas for it, and we

want many of the other u3a groups to participate. We hope that this Show Garden will encapsulate all the great things we stand for in the u3a."

Over the next few months, Southport will be updating their members on progress for this venture. However, in the meantime to take advantage of the Specially Discounted admission price, go the Southport Flower Show site:

[www.southportflowershow.co.uk](http://www.southportflowershow.co.uk)

and click on tickets. In the tickets page enter **u3a** in the Promotional Code box and book your tickets at the special price of £18.00.



**SOUTHPORT  
FLOWER  
SHOW**



**Southport  
Flower Show**

## Drama Group

THE Drama Group's next production will be on **Friday 13th and Saturday 14th May**, and will be a play entitled **'Old Boilers'**, set in Blackpool with lots of fun at a traditional B&B, where the guests cause the owner quite a few problems.

This is followed by **'End of the Pier Show'**, a revue including songs, dances and, of course, comedy.

Tickets will be available later so please make a note of the date in your diary.

## Health & Wellbeing

THE next meeting of the Health and Wellbeing Group will take place on Friday, 18th March at 10.30am at St Michael's Church Hall. **Debbie Parkinson** from the NHS Northwest Innovation Agency will talk to us about the work she and her volunteer Heart Heroes are doing with regard to health testing, particularly in relation to blood pressure, pulse and cholesterol levels at

public venues. Entry is the usual £1.

On 22nd April we will welcome back **Dr Dorothy Tse**. She will discuss with us her aim of consulting members of our u3a in her project on *Ageing Better*. More information in the next enews.

If you would like to come along to either or both of these meetings, please email Julia at [thebates@blueyonder.co.uk](mailto:thebates@blueyonder.co.uk) or ring and leave a message on 01744 883086, in order to have an idea of the number of people planning to attend.

## Choir Concert

**with the Recorder Group**

**Saturday, 2nd July at 7.30**  
**at Aughton Village Hall**

### 'BABY BOOMERS!'

COME and join us and enjoy a whistle stop tour of history and music from 1945 to the present day. From the 'Festival of Britain' and the 'Queen's Coronation' through the sixties, the millennium and Covid, singing all the way. Ticket information nearer the time.

*Save the date!*

## The Musical Theatre Group is back!

PLEASE come and support your u3a Musical Theatre Group as they endeavour to get back to doing shows. The pandemic has hit the group hard, so their numbers are low at the moment, but they still have a show to present to you.

Although not a musical, it has songs and dance from Musicals both old and new, with other items that they hope will take you back and comic songs and the like.

It may be that you have not been out much; well now's the time that you may wish to. Tickets are only £5 each. **'Dancing Fools'** is taking place on

**Friday, 25th March at 7.30pm** and **Saturday, 26th March at 2.00pm** and **7.30pm** at Aughton Village Hall. The

bar will be open and there will be a raffle to help our u3a.

Please pick up some flyers from Horizons and give them to your friends.

For those on Facebook, why not join our Facebook Group Page: [www.facebook.com/groups/1420169631596658](https://www.facebook.com/groups/1420169631596658)

to keep updated on what we are doing?

You may wish to join us on or off stage as a member. Whatever you decide to do, we look forward to seeing you soon.



# DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY

## ... as clever as ever!



Top left: Iron Man *by Bill Soens.*

Top right: Street Furniture *by Di Piggin.*

Left: Triptycht *by Tony Leigh.*

Below: Street Food *by Colin Radcliff.*

Opposite page: Top Left: Black and White *by Norma Ruddick.*

Top right: Avocet *by Bill Soens.*

Below: Still Life *by Dennis Walton.*

Right: Shadows *by Bill Soens.*

Bottom: Lights *by Mike Williams.*

Inset photo: Quarters *by Alan Starkie.*





# u3a Creative Writing

**An introduction:** ‘The Creative Writing Group’ announced a competition for a 1,000 word original story in the last full magazine, published in February 2020, just before the first lockdown. A prize of a £25 Waterstones’ voucher was offered and the story was to be printed in our u3a magazine. Two years on, the stories have been judged and the prize has been awarded but there has not been a magazine in which to share the story with you all. 20 entries were considered by the independent judge and that from Mike Briggs was considered to be the outright winner, with three further stories awarded a Highly Commended status.

**H**E often went backpacking alone, preferring his own company. Not because he was anti-social, far from it, he had a wide circle of friends who met on a regular basis. It was simply that he loved the freedom of thought and movement that solo walking gave him. This freedom allowed him to indulge in his other passion; connecting with nature and trying to understand what was happening around him. To do that you have to be alone and, if possible, remote from other human influences.

Yoga and meditation had always been a part of his life. As a child, his mother encouraged him to practice sitting still and to absorb the silence around him. She taught him to use his mind to cut through distractions and find the hidden gems.

## The Mojave Flute Player

by Mike Briggs



As the years passed he travelled to many remote parts of the world. He developed the ability to induce deep, almost transcendental states of awareness. Once entered, they allowed him to experience rare insights into the parallel universe of nature. Things like the cause and effect of weather patterns; wind, rain, snow, searing desert heat and the vastness of space.

He often camped or bivouacked out under the stars, observing and listening to the activities of nocturnal animals, insects and other creatures. All these special moments were stored in the massive data bank which is the human brain. He took no photographs and very rarely kept written notes. It was all filed away in his own trillion byte storage facility.

For this particular trip he had decided to re-visit the Mojave desert. He had not been there for many years and, among other things, he was hoping to find the location where he had previously enjoyed one of the most

# Winning story for 2020 u3a

amazing and beautiful sunrises he had ever seen.

He'd been backpacking for ten days now, and in all that time had only encountered one other human being. That was at the very start of his trip when he had reported to the Mojave National Park Ranger, a Native American by the name of Jim Golden Cloud. During his time in the desert, he felt he had seen more life than anyone could imagine. He followed the dried up water courses, and scrambled down into the depths of canyons and ravines to shelter from the shimmering desert heat. He felt completely at ease and very happy. However his trip was coming to an end, and there was a three day hike to the nearest state highway.

That night, he found the perfect bivi site with a small stream close by. He slept soundly but before daybreak, he was disturbed by the unmistakable sound of a rattlesnake. Through the gloom, he could sense rather than see the snake. He wasn't particularly alarmed, he'd seen many of these and other desert dwellers before.

He slowly reached for his head torch and, carefully placing it on his head, he simultaneously switched it on. The snake was in the raised strike position at the foot of his sleeping bag, its chilling rattle sounding more and more ominous.

They fixed each other's eye, not blinking, not moving. Only the rattle betrayed the gravity of his predicament. "Is this it then?" he

thought, after all his expeditions, "was it to end here on a dark Mojave morning?"

As he looked out into the desert beyond the snake, he saw a thin line, gold and pink, splitting the darkness like the slash of a rapier on a piece of crimson silk. The deadly rattle increased but he just sat there transfixed, awaiting the mortal strike. Now the gold and pink was joined by red, green and orange as the increasing light illuminated the dark desert floor.

At that moment, about fifty metres to his left, there came the most hauntingly beautiful sound of a flute drifting across the stillness. A Mojave flute player was sitting cross legged beneath a rocky overhang, high up on a steep cliff face.

It was the most uplifting sound he had ever heard and with each evocative refrain the light increased, illuminating and bathing him in the morning rays of warmth, energy and hope.

When he looked down at his feet, the sinuous rattler had slithered away to its rocky hide, the music had stopped and the outcrop was deserted.

Closing his eyes very slowly, he smiled and saved it all to his memory bank ... "Do you think he can hear us?" said the student nurse to her colleague.

"Don't know to be honest" she replied, "he's been like this for six years now. Crashed his motor bike into a desert ravine."

"Still, he looks very peaceful" commented the young nurse, "maybe he was having sweet dreams."

# How we communicate

THIS diagram illustrates the various communication methods used in Aughton & Ormskirk u3a.

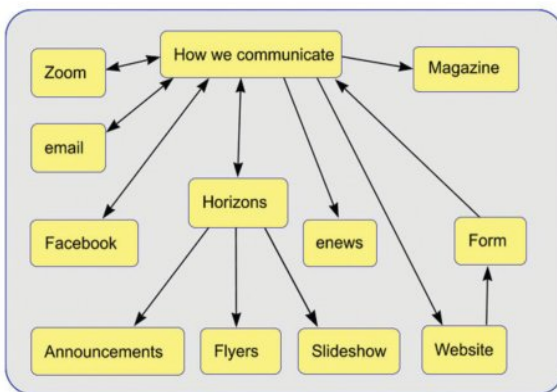
Some, such as the Horizons announcements and flyers are longstanding and familiar. Others like enews, the website and Facebook have been introduced over time when the technologies became available.

When it became difficult to produce and distribute the u3a Magazine in print during the past two years, good use of Beacon email enabled Committee Officers and Group Leaders to communicate essential information to those members with an email address on their membership records (around 92% now).

Regular browsers of our website may spot two new boxes on the diagram:

- **Zoom:** During lockdown, Willem, our IT Manager, arranged for a licence to enable members of Groups and Committees to meet up remotely via an app called Zoom. The Speaker Meetings organiser, Pam used Zoom to get well-received remote talks underway while we were isolating. And Zoom has continued to be a very useful tool for the u3a even as social distancing eases.
- **Slideshow:** When rules allowed us to meet in larger numbers in person and Horizons restarted, Pam introduced a weekly Slideshow. This now runs continuously in both rooms during the weekly meetings at the Scout & Guide HQ. It gives information about forthcoming events such as Speaker Meetings, changes in group meeting arrangements, spare tickets etc, and is updated every week.

Please note that there is currently no



procedure for publicity across the various channels. So, for example, if you want to advertise an event to appear in multiple places such as the Magazine, enews, the website, Facebook, then you need to contact each relevant Editor.

## CONTACTS:

### Membership Team:

[membership@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk](mailto:membership@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk)

or Membership Desk at Horizons

### enews: Bob Carlton

[enews@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk](mailto:enews@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk)

### Facebook: Bill Soens,

via Facebook and [billsoens@sky.com](mailto:billsoens@sky.com)

### Horizons Announcement & Flyer:

Duty Manager at Horizons Meeting

### Horizons Slideshow: Pam Ball,

[ballp7416@gmail.com](mailto:ballp7416@gmail.com)

### Magazine: Bill Evans,

[editor@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk](mailto:editor@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk)

### Website Web Team:

[webteam@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk](mailto:webteam@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk)

### Zoom Session:

Willem Wiechers, [learning@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk](mailto:learning@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk)

## MORE INFORMATION

Look for more details of the comms channels on the u3a website using Search term 'Communicating'. Or for demos on how to use them in the u3a context, contact us:

Communications Subcommittee

[commscomm@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk](mailto:commscomm@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk)

**Communications Subcommittee**

## Treasurer's Report

WE are now approaching the end of another challenging financial year.

Firstly, I would like to say thank you to you all for accepting the changed approach to funding the cost of hiring premises and ensuring we have a sound basis for coping with changes in the number of members participating in the offered activities. There is a manageable shortfall in money collected from attendees versus the cost of hiring premises. At the time of writing, I believe the shortfall will be around £3,000. Given the impact of Covid on social activities, that shortfall in activity-related receipts is a creditable outcome.

This financial year, the cost of administering our u3a (*money paid to the Third Age Trust, communication, equipment, website, office expenses etc*) is going to be less than the money raised through your membership subscriptions. Taking the two together, I am

pleased to report that our finances remain in a good state.

**Derrick Fewings, Hon. Treasurer**

*The following dialogue was overheard at the Wine Appreciation group after a few glasses:*

**Anne:** What day is it? I don't think it is Thursday, Friday or Saturday.

**Beryl:** Well, that does not narrow it down much. Yesterday was Sunday.

**Colin:** Yesterday was not Sunday, tomorrow is Sunday.

**Dennis:** The day after tomorrow is Saturday.

**Eric:** The day before yesterday was Thursday.

**Frank:** Tomorrow is Saturday.

**Godfrey:** I know that the day after tomorrow is not Friday.

**If only one person's statement is true, what day of the week is it?**

**Answer on page 19**



JOAN Potter, Group Leader for Creative Writing, was asked to select a poem from many written by the members of the group over the past two or three years. This is her choice:

### **Enchantment**

*The fairies came on silver wings and spun  
my dreams in lacy strings*

*They sprinkled dew drops on my eyes and  
whisked me up to azure skies*

*Where gentle zephyrs breathed a sweet  
and calming breeze, and round my  
feet*

*Wild flowers bloomed and music played  
in rhythms strange, a wild cascade.*

*I danced with ease, my feet so light, my  
slippers heeled and crystal bright,*

*A dress of rainbow gauze was mine,  
enchantment all around, sublime.*

*The dream was fading: morning bright  
with silent fingers banished night.*

*The dawn brought pain to limbs grown  
weak, to withered hands and shrunken  
cheek:*

*But in my heart were memories of youth  
and happiness released.*

*All day I lived again the scene of night's  
enchanted magic dream.*

**SUE WATKINSON**

**Note:** The title 'Enchantment' was a theme set by the u3a Choir for a summer concert. My poem speaks of the power of medication to release memory and eliminate pain.

## ~ OPPORTUNITIES TO HELP YOUR U3A ~

### A new challenge?

FANCY joining the Membership Team?

The Membership Team's term of tenure is due to end this year. We are therefore looking for a new Membership Secretary and a team of enthusiastic volunteers who are prepared to get involved in this interesting and rewarding opportunity. A team of three/four would be ideal to enable a flexible rota system.

The role involves basic office skills, some IT knowledge, collecting and banking membership money and attendance at weekly Horizons (on rota). Full training and support, including shadowing the current Membership Team, will be provided.

For more information please get in touch via our email address:

[membership@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk](mailto:membership@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk)

or phone *Doreen on 01695 424797* or  
*Deirdre on 01695 229094*

### Honorary Secretary

WE are looking for a new Honorary Secretary: our u3a cannot run without a Secretary, so it is vital that we have continuity in this office.

This is a rewarding job involving keeping in touch with members. Duties include arranging meetings and passing information to Committee members, helping to arrange the Annual General Meeting, keeping in touch with Third Age Trust, completing the Charity Commission Annual Report and generally assisting u3a members when necessary.

The Secretary will also be a member of the Management Committee which meets regularly throughout the year. The present Secretary will help and assist at any time.

For more information please email:  
[secretary@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk](mailto:secretary@aughton-ormskirk-u3a.co.uk)

or phone  
*Megan on 578 207*

## Our choir needs an Assistant Musical Director

OUR present musical director, Paul Dickie has successfully led us for the past 18 months and in spite of the challenges of Covid we organised and performed the u3a advent service under his direction. However, to secure continuity for the future we would like to bring in someone else with the necessary musical knowledge and creative skills to assist Paul, help take the choir forward and build on our success.

The choir is a very friendly, sociable group with 35 members and we like to sing a wide range of music including; Musical Theatre, Folk, Sacred and Popular. We enjoy the challenge of three part singing as well as a good unison sing-a-long at most of our sessions.

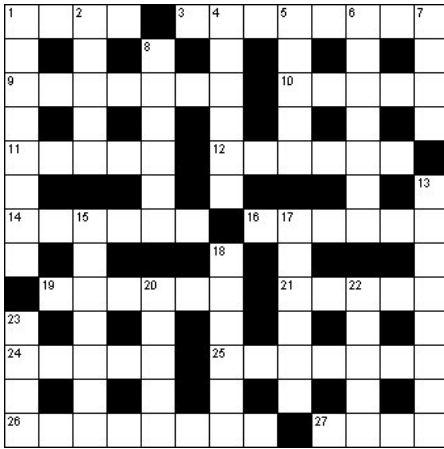


One formal concert a year is arranged in the summer and we also organise the annual U3A Advent service. We are regularly invited to sing at several local nursing homes.

We meet every Wednesday morning at Aughton Village Hall from 10.00am until 12 noon; broadly following school holidays. A well organised team takes care of administration, finances and hall bookings. If you are interested in finding out more then please contact choir leader Ann Henders: [annhenders@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:annhenders@yahoo.co.uk) or on **07847 364 330**.

**Please note there is no remuneration for this role.**

# A Crossword for you



## ACROSS

- 1 Encounter (4)
- 3 Attacked (8)
- 9 Tropical cyclone (7)
- 10 Likeness (5)
- 11 Aviator (5)
- 12 Shrewdness (6)
- 14 English university city (6)
- 16 Kidnapper's demand (6)
- 19 Dog-house (6)
- 21 Tall building (5)
- 24 Ceased (5)
- 25 Assorted (7)
- 26 Broad-brimmed Mexican hat (8)
- 27 Observed (4)

## DOWN

- 1 Figure of speech (8)
- 2 Eject (5)
- 4 Light open-toed shoe (6)
- 5 Farewell (5)
- 6 Several (anag.) (7)
- 7 Profound (4)
- 8 Physician (6)
- 13 Put in jail (8)
- 15 Liberty (7)
- 17 Dress (6)
- 18 Ingenious (6)
- 20 Lowest point (5)
- 22 Entire (5)
- 23 Supreme god of ancient Greece (4)

*For new members, Horizons is our weekly meeting from 9.30 on Thursday mornings at Christ Church Scout & Guide HQ. There are no Government guidelines on the wearing of masks . . . just be cautious. We have a wonderful book stall and its only 50p for endless tea, coffee and biscuits. There will be adequate ventilation so wear your big coat*

# Jokes

Just found out my uncle has left me a stately home in his will. I have no idea where Sod Hall is. I'm just off to google it now.

A documentary made by the 'Flat Earth Society' has been nominated for a 'Golden Globe'.

What's the difference between a 'kangaroo' and a 'kangaroot'?

A 'kangaroo' is a large Australian marsupial. A 'kangaroot' is a Geordie stuck in a lift.

I rang IT support and their response was: "Have you asked your grandson?"

Been waiting for an appointment to see my doctor for months now! Finally got to see him today and showed him the itchy rash on my bottom, but he just ignored me and carried on pushing his trolley around Tesco.

I went to my local garage because my tyre was making a whistling noise. The mechanic said: "It sounds like a flat." I said: "Actually, it's F sharp".

I've just been telling my mate that I hate backgammon and draughts.

He said: "Hate chess too?"

I said: "Don't even get me started on that pointless high-speed rail project."

I went to visit a psychic. Knocked on her front door and she yelled: "Who is it?" So I left.

"Doctor, I have a problem hearing with my left ear."

"Are you sure?"

"Yes, I'm definite."

The Umbrella was originally called Brella but the inventor hesitated.

I've been asked to join a Swingers' club, but I'm a little nervous. What if I'm not good enough? I haven't been on a swing since I was nine.

**FROM YOUR EDITOR**

## Philharmonic Visits

*A message from Ann Robinson:  
Philharmonic Visits Group leader*

LIVERPOOL Philharmonic Hall now has a full and varied programme of concerts for us to enjoy, not to mention a new young conductor, Domingo Hindoyan. Members of our u3a are fortunate in that they are able to book tickets and transport for several carefully selected concerts during the year, usually once a month on a Thursday.

*Ann writes:* "The group was founded to support the local orchestra in our city and enjoyed considerable success. However, numbers have been dwindling and currently we do not always have enough support to fund a coach. This is a problem for some supporters who do not have transport and are unable to travel to the venue by train.

The pandemic has compounded the problem, and the Phil is now releasing recordings of the concerts to watch at home, which some supporters are choosing to do. I am finding it difficult too, as it is hard to remain enthusiastic with so little support. We do not have a co-leader, and if the group is to



● *One of our regular Horizons  
Coffee and Tea teams!*

continue it would be good to have someone to help choose the concerts and take the bookings."

Are you a music fan? Could you help to revitalise this once very popular group? Please contact **Ann on 01695 571303** to make enquiries or offer help. Details of forthcoming concerts can be found on our website: Click on 'Groups' and then 'Philharmonic visits'.

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

## Word Search

### Find the Groups

*Groups can be up,  
down, left, right, or  
diagonal*

Aerobics, Bridge, Chess,  
Choir, Cribbage, Cycling,  
Discussion, Drama,  
Gardening, Golf, Italian,  
Painting, Pilates, Poetry,  
Science, Scrabble,  
Snooker, Spanish,  
Ukulele, Zumba

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## Answers to page 17 Crossword

**ACROSS**

1 Meet, 3 Assailed, 9 Typhoon, 10 Image,  
11 Pilot, 12 Acumen, 14 Oxford,  
16 Ransom, 19 Kennel, 21 Tower,  
24 Ended, 25 Various, 26 Sombrero,  
27 Seen.

**DOWN**

1 Metaphor, 2 Expel, 4 Sandal, 5 Adieu,  
6 Leavers, 7 Deep, 8 Doctor, 13 Imprison,  
15 Freedom, 17 Attire, 18 Cleaver, 20 Nadir,  
22 Whole, 23 Zeus

## Answer to Derrick's p.15 puzzle

If it is Saturday, the statements of Anne,  
Colin and Godfrey are true.

If it is Sunday, the statements of Anne  
and Godfrey are true.

Continuing with this approach, the only  
day where only one person's  
statement is true is Wednesday:  
when just Anne's statement is true.

**DERRICK FEWINGS**

As this magazine goes to press, the people of Ukraine  
are very much in our hearts and minds, and we  
hope and pray for a speedy end to the conflict



# What does 2022 have in store?

WITH cautious optimism, group activities are re-opening and members are coming back to activities abandoned two years ago.

Some groups have stayed together via Zoom over the lonely months of lockdown and anxiety. Others continued to take outdoor exercise in limited numbers. Others met outdoors when permitted numbers allowed.

Social distancing held back the hugs and close contact that we all craved. Masks took away smiles, and impeded hearing, especially for those who depend, sometimes unwittingly, on lip reading.

But all that is suddenly over and we are now free to face our risks with the rest of the population. So wear a mask if you feel more confident in doing that ~ no-one will criticise you for it. Stay away from events that are likely to be crowded. Insist on windows being opened. But do find the courage and

confidence to leave your homes and begin to join in again. So many of us have suffered loneliness and isolation through the last two years. The future is now in our hands.

2022 is the 40th anniversary of the formation of u3a: that, and the Queen's Platinum Jubilee, give us reasons to celebrate, to look back with satisfaction and to plan and hope for the future.

Eric Midwinter, last surviving founder of the u3a movement, wrote recently in *Third Age Matters* that inspiration for the concept of u3a was gained from the success of the pre-school playgroup movement when groups of ordinary citizens took on the challenge of creating and running their own organisations. Our own members must continue to come forward to run our u3a and to develop this wonderful organisation which has given such joy and purpose to our lives.

**SUE WATKINSON, Chair of Trustees**

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● *The Wednesday Line Dancing group at Green Lane Guide HQ with tutor Loraine Price (front row, second from right)*

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