



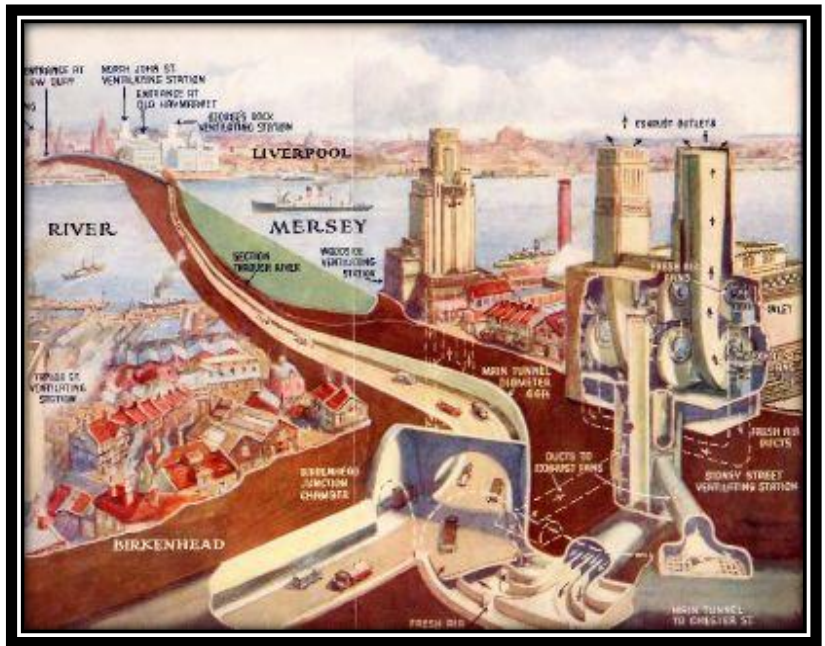
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

# Newsletter

NESTON U3A

June 2019

## Visit to Liverpool Town Hall



During the month of April two outings were organised for members of Neston U3A. The first one was a visit to Liverpool Town Hall. We had an excellent guide, James (who also did a conducted tour of St George's Hall for us last year). He is so knowledgeable which made the visit very interesting. The treasures in this building are wonderful - beautiful commemorative pieces in silver and gold, wonderful pictures and statues, and the chandeliers. In the ballroom with infinity mirrors at each end made one think of Versailles. We were allowed to stand out on the balcony which has held many famous people such as the Beatles and the Liverpool football team. We were also allowed into the council chamber which was also very impressive. A wonderful building, well worth a visit.

### **For our second trip in April we visited the workings of the Mersey Tunnel.**

The tunnels are so much part of our everyday life and living here on Wirral / Merseyside we can easily forget what a tremendous feat of engineering the tunnels really are.

Planning started in 1922 and actual work commenced in 1925 completed in 1934, with the work taking 9 years.

Ventilation was a huge problem, but the problem was solved by the construction of the enormous fans which we saw when we made this fascinating visit.

The Mersey Tunnel was opened in July 1934 to great fanfare, by King George V.

If you go 'on line' and find 'Wonders of the World of Engineering' you will find the full story and it is truly impressive.

After our visit we made our way to the Britannia Inn with terrific views of the river, for refreshments. **Doreen Higgins and Dot Blunt**

## Why you shouldn't wait until retirement to travel!



**Q. How much money does a pirate pay for corn?**

**A. A buccaneer**



### Singing for Fun Group



The Singing for Fun group meets every other Friday at the United Reform Church hall on Parkgate Road. It is very popular with a growing membership but, as always, could do with more male voices. No previous singing experience necessary. However, we are now appealing for anybody

in Neston U3A who could help us out as our resident accompanist is going to be away in the autumn. We are now urgently looking for a temporary replacement to play on the following Friday afternoons from 2-4pm: November 8th, 22nd and December 6th. Celia chooses the songs and conducts the sessions so you would only have to accompany her. If you can help, please contact Celia at [c.wg@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:c.wg@hotmail.co.uk) or on 07900 541728.

**Michael Grumett**







## “Chairman’s Musings”

So, following a reasonably successful AGM, we start a new (financial) year with a much-changed committee. My appeal in the last newsletter had some success and I feel much more hopeful about the future direction of Neston U3A, with a substantial reduction in the average age of both the membership and the committee. My worry now is that I might find I am restraining the newfound energy of the committee because I cannot keep up! I have to thank my colleagues on the committee, both old and new, for everything that they have done so well; some of it is very visible but there is also a lot going on in the background that is not so evident.

There are three items from the AGM that will be of interest to members who were unable to attend. First, we have been able to form a small team who will be responsible for refreshments at our meetings, but we continue to rely on the Interest Groups to provide, in turn, a couple of volunteers to help in the kitchen each month. Secondly, Pat Dix was elected as our first-ever Honorary President, in appreciation of the tremendous amount of work she has done and continues to do for our U3A. This post is for one year only, it is purely honorary and involves no extra responsibilities and does not make her a Trustee, but she may be invited to attend committee meetings. Finally, our MP, Mr. Justin Madders, has accepted an invitation to attend one of our open meetings and we look forward to welcoming him in July.

I have used up my space allocation, so I will sign off with good wishes to you all and a request that you make an effort to take care of visitors and new members at the open meetings. We have noticed that people attending for the first time are isolated because we tend to group together with friends and they feel excluded. It is not a responsibility we can put onto the committee alone because they all have allocated tasks to perform. New people are now being given stick-on labels to wear so that they may easily be identified.

*Geoff Gibson*

**What’s the difference between a sentence that’s well-written  
and a sentence that’s, well, written?**



“Poor Old fool,” thought the well-dressed gentleman as he watched an old man fish in a puddle outside a pub.  
So he invited the old man inside for a drink.  
As they sipped their whiskeys, the gentleman thought he’d humour the old man and asked,  
“So how many have you caught today?”  
The old man replied, “You’re the eighth.”



## 'AS OLD AS YOU FEEL'



When I join other U3A members in various activities I get the impression that none of us really believe that we are as old as our age. It is a happy delusion. The trouble is that our bodies know exactly how long they have been working for us and from time to time will remind us the fact.

This was brought home to me recently when I was invited by my old cycling club to join them on the 50th anniversary of their annual Ladies Weekend.

Since I was one of the instigators of this yearly escape I was determined to join them. Well how was I to know that the routes would include some of the steepest hills in Shropshire. Actually, I should have known. On our weekends we always headed for the hills, why should anything have changed?

M & I were by far the oldest members of the group. On every hill we slowly but surely slipped to the back of the field until we were on our own. In the past we would have been fighting it out at the front with the best of them, not any more. On one particularly steep hill I was walking and M was valiantly riding in a very, very low gear. I have to say, however, that her forward momentum was only just enough to overcome gravity. The margin was so small that a mere puff of side wind was enough to tip her onto the verge. She lay there unhurt but pinned by the bike. I put my bike down and extracted hers but she still lay there. She confessed that she was unable to get up. Older members will know that the ability to raise the body from the horizontal to the vertical is sometimes a problem. M solved it by getting on all fours and accepting my helping hand. It was not an elegant solution but it worked. M was never one to make a fuss or to give up easily so I was quite surprised when she said quite firmly 'I am not coming here again'. We both mentally added 'cycling in the Shropshire hills' to our list of things we are never going to do again. Maybe you have such a list?

We all stopped at Hopton castle to have a look round and M wanted to take a photo of us all. First, however, she had to ask someone to raise her right elbow so that her hand was high enough to operate the camera. She said that once it was up it would be alright. It seemed to be quite a normal procedure for her.

Later on in the afternoon we were warned that the next hill was so steep and rough that some of us (i.e. me) might want to walk. The group, including M disappeared in a cloud of dust. I started cycling but got ready to jump off if it got too steep. That moment came quite quickly but jumping off was not so easy. The bike was on a steep slope and I had to hold both brakes on tightly. I managed to slip off the saddle and stand astride the cross bar. The saddle was higher than the handlebars and when I tried to lift my leg over the saddle it became lodged on the top of the pannier. So there I was on one leg, head down and holding onto the brakes for dear life. I looked like some sort of ungainly wading bird. I managed to dislodge my leg and put the bike on the ground and step out of it. At least there was no one to see my antics.

The ride back was relatively flat but for me every slight incline seemed like a mountain. I was nursed back by the organiser (she used to be a friend!). I remembered how often I had been in her position escorting a weaker rider home. I used to wonder how it was possible someone could ride so slowly and not fall off. Now I know!

After a shower I went down to the dining room for an evening of good food, wine, and company. Now that I could do!

Those 'blue-remembered hills' of Shropshire will stay where they belong, in my memory.

**Ann Taylor**



## **ERRATUM**

In the Antiques and Collectables quiz in the January newsletter the nurse's cap was wrongly labelled a "fancy". Pat Mann has informed me that it was actually called a "frilly" and only worn by Nightingale Nurses who trained at either St Thomas' Hospital, London or Liverpool Royal Infirmary.



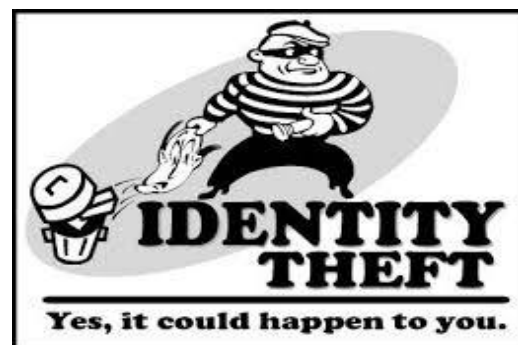
## **BEWARE - Email scams**

Scammers will send bogus emails in the hope that people will enter their personal details. They may direct you to a fake website, trick you into thinking you've won a lottery or prize, or pretend to be someone you may know who has been stranded somewhere and needs money.

Some emails may also have a link or file attached for you to click on or

open. These are sometimes called spam or junk emails. Opening these links or downloading the files may be harmful to your computer.

If you see a suspicious email, don't reply with your details or open any links or documents. Delete the email straight away. If the email claims to be from an organisation, phone them directly using the phone number found on their official website and ask them.







## Lonely Hearts Romance Fraudster Alert

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This is a message sent via Cheshire Police Alert. This information has been sent on behalf of Action Fraud (NFIB)



(Please do not reply directly to this email, please use the Reply button at the bottom of this message)

**Message sent by**

Action Fraud (Action Fraud, Administrator, National)

### Lonely Hearts Romance Fraudster Alert

The NFIB have become aware of techniques used by romance fraudsters against people using dating sites. Not only will they steal your heart they will steal your money and your identification.

When you think you've met the perfect partner through an online dating website or app, but the other person is using a fake profile to form a relationship with you. They're using the site to gain your trust and ask you for money or enough personal information to steal your identity.

A dating fraudster, previously involved in deceiving people that wanted a friendship explained how they would create fake accounts with social media platforms so that their details matched and could be searched.

By appearing to be a real person their fake persona could be corroborated by prospective partners searching their background and believe them to be genuine. The fraudster said:

*"People like to live in fairy tales to say it won't happen to me. I make sure all my conversations are bespoke. I will show insecurity myself about trusting people and this helps allude to them that I'm genuine."*

The fraudster will also utilise as many accessible online research tools to explore people's information for their own personal gain or sell onwards. The fraudster elaborated and explained:

*"I use various online directories to find out about the person. Once I have enough, I use it to milk everything I can using their details or sell them on to other fraudsters via the dark web"*

When asked how people could check if a person is real. The romance fraudster offered advice for others searching for a relationship. They told us that after you see a picture of them:

*"Ask for them to send you another photo of themselves posing with their thumbs up or waving. It's like a form of 2 factor authentication and makes it hard to do if it's not an original picture"*

### What you need to do

- Avoid sharing too many personal details when on online dating profiles. Revealing your full name, date of birth, or full home address may lead to your identity being stolen.
- Never respond to any requests to send money, or have money transferred into your account by someone you don't know and trust. These types of requests should always raise a red flag. If something feels wrong then it is usually right to question it.
- Pick a reputable dating website or app, and use the built-in messaging service. Fraudsters want to quickly switch to social media or texting so there's no evidence of them asking you for money.



Two Aussies were out hunting in the outback and came upon a huge hole in the ground. They approached it and were amazed at its size

The first said, "Wow, that's some hole. I can't even see the bottom. I wonder how deep it is."

The second said, "There's an old gear box over there. Let's throw it in and see how long it takes to hit bottom."

So they picked up the gear box, carried it over to the hole, counted one-two-three and heaved it in.

As they were standing there looking over the edge of the hole, a goat came crashing through the underbrush, ran up to the hole and without hesitation, jumped in head first.

While they were standing there staring at each other in amazement, they peered into the hole, trying to figure out what that was all about.

Just then an old farmer sauntered up. "Say, you fellers didn't happen to see my goat?"

The first hunter said, "Funny you should ask. We were just standing here a minute ago, and a goat came running out of the bushes doing about a hundred miles an hour and jumped head first into this here hole!"

The old farmer said, "Naw, that's impossible! I had him chained to a gear box."

**Janet Boardman**



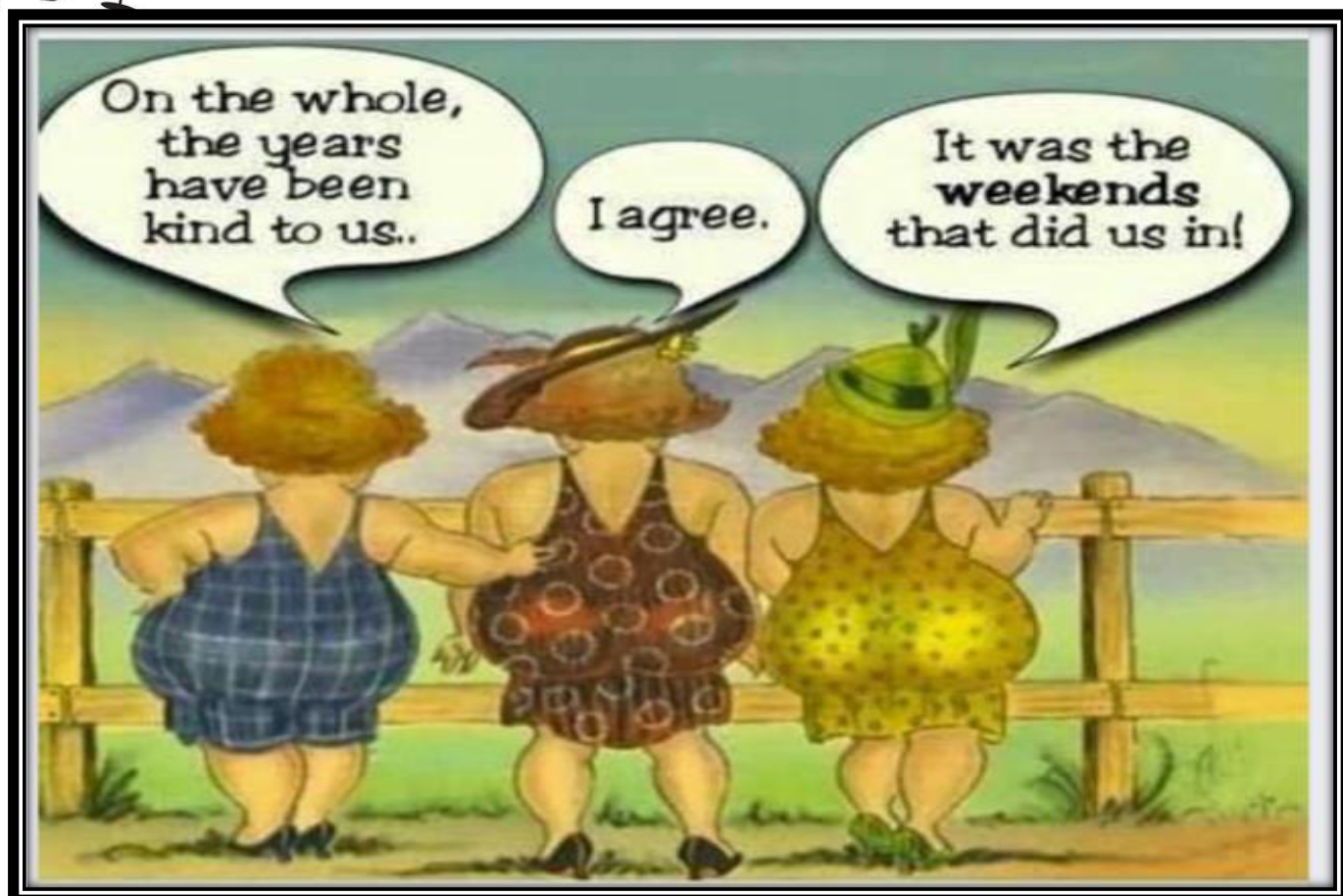
Visit Our New U3A Website at [www.nestonu3a.org.uk](http://www.nestonu3a.org.uk)



## **Best of luck with this lovely little Sudoku**



			8					
							2	5
				9	5	8	4	
1	7				8	9		
9			2		1			7
		2	9				3	6
	8	9	5	3				
5	6							
					2			





## Gardening Group 2



On February 19<sup>th</sup> members of the 'Garden Club 2' visited Ness Gardens where they had lunch and then walked to the Snowdrop Trail. I am a new member, along with Liz Young, and this was our first time with the group.

A lovely day was had by all

**Lyn Jackson-Eves**





## Lunch Club – ENJOY!



### Lunch Club Organiser

Marianne Pearce is our new Lunch Club organizer – she will be taking bookings at each open meeting or you can contact her on 07930 432319 or email her on [marianne4swimming@gmail.com](mailto:marianne4swimming@gmail.com)



**Please let Sue Fletcher know (0151 336 2594)**

- **if any of our members are unwell or in hospital**
- **if you change your email address or mobile phone number**

The next Newsletter is due to be published the end of October 2019

Closing date for contributions is Friday 4<sup>th</sup> October 2019.

Feedback welcomed but even more important is 'CONTENT'

So please let me have articles for inclusion –

**Ann Roochove** Email – [annchovie@hotmail.com](mailto:annchovie@hotmail.com)







## Cycling Group



On a bright, dry day in early April the first 'U3A leisure cycling group' set off from the Station Road car park to head along predominately traffic free tracks and cycle ways to Blaenau. There were 6 of us with varying degrees of ability but we kept a steady pace and managed to stay fairly close together.

We started along the Wirral Way towards the marsh cycle route to Burton Point before continuing along the old railway line to Blaenau. Here we diverted slightly off route to enjoy a drink and snack in the village before returning to the route to reverse our journey back to Neston.

The round trip of 22 miles was a bit of a challenge for some riders but everyone kept together and, at the end, agreed it had been a good trip on a near perfect cycling day.

All in all a very enjoyable ride had by all - I hope! **Group leader Bob Kynaston**



## Antiques & Collectables group

The Charles Rennie Mackintosh exhibition at Liverpool Museum was attended by the Antiques & Collectables group - a large, interesting area of CRM work & items of work which influenced his creativity. We rounded the morning off with a delicious plate of Scouse in the museum eatery!

**Pat Mann**





## Committee Members for 2019/ 2020



**Geoff Gibson**  
**Chair**



**Anne Farrall**  
**Vice Chair/Membership**  
**Secretary**



**Ann Roochove**  
**Secretary/ Newsletter**



**Ian Trotman**  
**Treasurer**



**David Steels**  
**Network**



**Sue Fletcher**  
**Publicity**



**Bon Kynaston**  
**Speaker Secretary**



**Fiona Matthews**  
**Minutes Secretary**



**Liz Marrs**  
**Group Co-ordinator**



**Mark Buckley**  
**Webmaster**



**Simon Davies**  
**Committee Member**



**Sandra McCrudden**  
**Committee Member**