

Dear All.

It is wonderful to read about the activities that our groups are taking part in. It has been a very busy month! What with the Birdwatching trip, the Family History Conference, the Alfresco in Autumn, two theatre visits and, of course, all the usual group meetings and the Members' Meeting and Drop In! How do we find time to do anything else?! All these would not take place without the wonderful team of members who work tirelessly to keep all these activities going. You know who you are, and I personally would like to congratulate everyone who is prepared to go that extra mile for our u3a Group. There are too many to name. However, I would like to thank Linda Bellers for sorting out our Kent Holiday and Christine Hodgkinson for arranging our trip to the Clink. Sue M

Members' Meetings – Christine Ballance

*Our Members' Meetings are normally held in Thelwall Parish Hall on the **third Thursday** of the month.*

Visitors are welcome to attend two meetings before joining. The next meeting will be on Thursday 17th October at 10.00 a.m. for a 10.30 a.m. start. Do come along early for a drink and a chat.

Refreshments will be served from 10.00 a.m. until 10.15 a.m.

Thursday 17th October

Rosie Lee

The Reluctant Shepherdess

Rosie had a successful career in banking. Then her Mum challenged her to do something with her Parents' farm - and so her adventures began...

Thursday 21st November

Jane Clare

Sherry, port, madeira...

Be Christmas ready and discover more about these fortified wines.

December

No Meeting

Thursday 16th January

Steve Barrett

Unidentified Flying Objects

Are there any images of UFOs that need an extra-terrestrial explanation? This talk looks at some images that may have more down-to-earth origins.

Dates for your Diary

Thursday 17 th October	Members' Meeting	
Friday 18 th October	The Clink	more details below
Thursday 14 th November	Heritage Centre Talk	
Thursday 21 st November	Members' Meeting	
Thursday 5 th December	Christmas Social	more details in due course
Friday 6 th -Sunday 8 th December	Christmas Tree Festival	St. Mary's Church
December	No Members' Meeting	

Coach Holiday to Kent May 20th to May 24th 2025

We are pleased to say that the in contact coach trip holiday is now going ahead,

If anyone wants to join us please get in contact with Clare

on Tel: [+44 \(0\) 161 928 3242](tel:+44(0)1619283242) as soon as possible.

She will take your deposit over the phone.

If you have booked or require more information, please contact [Linda](#)

Drop Ins

The next drop in at Lymm Village Hall is on Thursday 24th October

Come along for a social chat and a cuppa, catch up on u3a matters or bring a game to share!
Anything goes! All welcome!

The Clink Restaurant for Lunch

Friday 18th October 12.30 p.m.

Just a reminder for diners
Meals that are cancelled less than **48 hours** before we go to the restaurant **must be paid for.**

Please let us know in good time if you are unable to join us!!!

An Evening at the Heritage Centre

"Little Belgium in Lymm"

Thursday 14th November 7.30p.m.

This talk is now full but if anyone wishes to go on the waiting list in case anyone cancels please let me know [Sue M](#)

The cost is a donation on the night of £5

Christmas Tree Festival

6th -8th December

An early reminder that the we are adding our tree to the Christmas Tree festival in St Mary's Church. It is a lovely occasion when many groups and organisations come together.

So, please add the dates to your diaries



Christmas Santa Social

Thursday 5th December

1.00 p.m.- 4.30 p.m.

We will be entertained by Kevin and Joy Siddall

To book a place please contact [Lynn](#)

Please note - the places fill quickly!



Buffet Lunch



Tales from the Crypt – Frances Raftery by Sue Clarke

A packed hall, including new members and visitors, attended the September Members' Meeting. We enjoyed 'Tales from the Crypt', or more accurately many tales from many crypts, cemeteries and graves. Speaker Frances, a retired teacher and one of life's enthusiasts, combined her many interests and knowledge into becoming a peripatetic Public Speaker. As a taphophile she took us on a worldwide journey bringing *her subject to life* [sic] with slides, personal photographs, experiences and anecdotes. She began in grand style and size including the Pyramids of Giza, ancient Roman tombs and the largest cemetery in Iraq with estimated seven million graves. On a more practical level we learnt why the Catacombs were created in Paris and the practice of night-time, male only attendance at funerals described in Elizabeth Gaskell's writing. Over time changes in recording the passage of life significantly reflect social, political and economic world history. The rich and powerful celebrated with the poor largely ignored. We are still discovering tragedies and atrocities swept under the carpet, many sadly within our lifetime. Mike Horne gave the vote of thanks.



Alfresco in Autumn



Well how did we get such a lovely afternoon for our Autumn Alfresco! Forty nine members joined us with their butties and deckchairs and we had a lovely easy social, with no effort. Thanks to everyone who stayed after the Members' Meeting!



Wellbeing Birdwatchers Trip to Conway by Fiona Butterworth and Jim Dale



The Wellbeing Birdwatching Group, under the able auspices of James, spent two days on the North Wales coast. This account comes from descriptions written by Jim and Fiona.

"Torrential rain to Llanfairfechan. After waiting for it to ease with hot drinks in the café, then waterproofs on, we set off down the promenade. A successful morning followed with the sighting of Turnstones and Little Ring Plovers amongst the

pebbles, numerous Little Egrets, Oystercatchers, Curlew and, with a backdrop of mountains, a playful Peregrine, swooping and diving effortlessly. Our pace slowed as we took it all in. Coats off and lunch at RSPB Conwy Reserve, but few birds to add to our list as we gently sauntered after lunch. However, it's always a pleasure to walk by an estuary and get to know our fellow birders more. In addition, we had the compensation of stunning views across the estuary and down to the magnificent Conwy Castle. The evening was happily spent around a large table at the Brewers Fayre with surprisingly good food. The following morning, we visited The Spinnies Nature Reserve, Abergonwen,

a compact reserve with glorious views across to Beaumaris from the carpark. Smiles all round as soon as we stepped from our cars and saw a hundred or so swans preening and feeding on the Ogden Estuary as well as a huge gaggle of Greylagged Geese near the shore. However, the undoubted highlight was the Kingfisher streaking back and forth and posing for pictures before

resuming its fishing. An afternoon visit to Penrhyn Castle where dragonflies and butterflies darted about and birds sang in the woodland. We split up to wander the grounds or view inside the imposing Castle, an enormous sprawling megalith built from stone to look like concrete, and learn about its disturbing history. A few members of the party made a quick escape to Conwy and the Liverpool Arms there to be entertained by a cheeky seagull taking an enormous ice cream from a startled woman's hand. Another lovely evening in good company rounded off two superb days on the North Wales coast. Many thanks go to organiser James for his detailed preparation and a request to repeat the visit again next year! A trip we will always remember fondly."



Family History Conference, Palace Hotel, Buxton *report by Tim Old*

On Saturday 21st September, five members of our u3a Genealogy Group joined another 100 or so u3aers at the Family History Conference hosted by the u3a Peak District Family History Network at the Palace Hotel in Buxton, Derbyshire. We all thoroughly enjoyed our day out listening to lectures, visiting the exhibitions stands and chatting at the refreshment breaks and over a good lunch. Our first lecture concerned First World War Widows and how many struggled on the pensions they received if they got one at all. Next was a very helpful lecture entitled 'Reading Old Handwriting', which detailed methods to use and sources available to assist in reading those difficult to decipher old documents we often come across during our genealogical research. Our third lecture was about how to access the huge amount of genealogical and historical data stored at the National Archives in Kew, London. Last was a very humorous lecture entitled 'Was Your Ancestor A Criminal? We heard about lots of criminal cases, some of which were quite bizarre. All in all, a great day out. I hope that financial issues will not prevent the conference being held next year, which I highly recommend to my genealogy-interested friends.



Groups' Coordinator groups@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk

If anyone has any ideas about starting a new club please get in contact with me, Muriel, as we can help you to find other people interested and a venue to meet in and support you during set up and beyond! **Muriel.**

Groups' Gossip

Badminton

Two Badminton Groups are now in action every Wednesday morning between 9.00 a.m. and 11.00 a.m. at Grappenhall Community Centre, Bellhouse Lane, Grappenhall.

The 9.00 a.m. Group is full, but we now have a second session each week, starting at 10.00 a.m., at which new faces will be very welcome, so please email Geoff Stocker at: gsto2512@aol.com if you want to join this session, noting that you do need to have played Badminton previously.

Crown Green Bowling

The winner of the u3a bowls handicap competition, Pippa, being presented with her trophy by Jack from High Legh Bowling Club.



The 2024 u3a outdoor season concludes on the 30th September.

Although not a U3A activity, for those interested, indoor bowling sessions run by High Legh Bowling Club will begin in October in High Legh village hall on Monday and Wednesday afternoons from 1.15 p.m. to 3.45 p.m. Winter Membership & session fees are modest.

Games Group

Our next Games group session is on Tuesday 7th October 1.00 p.m.-3.00 p.m. (the first Tuesday of each month) at Lymm Village Hall. Please do come along to join in a game or bring a game you'd like to play. So far, we have played Rummikub, Mexican Train Dominoes, Bridge, Five Crowns, Bananagrams and Mahjong. No need to book just turn up and enjoy a relaxed and fun afternoon of games. Sessions are £2 and include a brew and a biscuit (or two).

Genealogy

Another great meeting. Elaine gave a talk about a surgeon's log on a convict ship to Australia. Fascinating stuff. Please if anyone is interested in joining, please let us know and we will have a have room for a few more!

Poetry Group

The Poetry Group heard a presentation by David on Wilfred Owen, the First World War Poet, before reading their own poems on the subject of 'Music'. Our next meeting is Thursday 24th October at the Sanctuary Hub. If anyone wants to join us, please contact David via the website

Sketching Out

Despite inclement weather six sketchers met at Dunham Massey. The rain stopped as we walked to our various positions and, remarkably it stayed dry for the rest of the morning.

Next meeting: Monday 21st October at the Dog & Partridge pub, Manchester Road, Warrington. 10.15 a.m.

Theatre

12 members saw The History Boys at the Garrick



Theatre in Altrincham on Wednesday 18th September. The group had divided opinions about the play, however, the acting was excellent. 10 members went to see War Horse on Thursday 26th September. The report from this will be in next month's Newsletter.

Walking Groups

Striders

Well, the 4-6ers may have had beautiful weather but the Striders had their usual and more! We were pretty wet though there was the odd burst of



sunshine. Kath Brown led a hardy 8 Striders up Bryn Alun and Moel Fadog.

In spite of the weather the views were amazing over the Welsh countryside and we all had a good time. Now I just need to dry all my walking gear for Friday Rambles!

4-6ers

We were so lucky to have beautiful weather for our walk led by Neil and Helen from the Smoker Pub to Pickmere. It was interesting to pass the Pickmere Radio Telescope one of the telescopes that make up the Jodrell Bank



MERLIN (Multi Element Radio Linked Interferometer Network) radio telescope array linking six observation stations that together form a powerful telescope. Coffee was taken overlooking Pickmere Lake and then it was back to the Smoker for a delicious lunch. Thanks Neil and Helen

Friday Ramble

The group met at Marbury Park in the sunshine and followed a route of nearly seven miles firstly across fields to Barnton, then along the Trent-Mersey Canal to the basin where David read us a poem about Rambling! We walked down to the River Weaver and then back along the canal to the historic Anderton Boat Lift where we enjoyed our picnic lunch on picnic benches with umbrellas!

Wellbeing/Birdwatching

A busy month for the twitchers! After the



A clear sunny day, Crossing the Bollin after Dunham Woodhouses.

Conway break reported on above, we have managed two sunny outings. The first to Dunham Massey with a special look for the redshank which remained shy.

The second outing was to Pennington Flash where nuthatch, lapwings, gadwalls and a jay and heron were sighted. With 23 members at Pennington we think that was a record for us!

National Trust: Dunham Massey Community Access Pass

Our Community Pass from Dunham Massey for groups of up to 15 people to visit free without pre-booking (15 to a 30 have to pre-book.) is available for Interest Groups. This is for normal entry. Contact Sue Mitchell chair@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk and I will arrange for you to collect it from me.

Jigsaws

Thank you to all those members who kindly donated their jigsaws. Members are welcome to borrow the jigsaws on display at monthly meetings. Any further donations of 500 or 1000-piece puzzles will be gratefully received.

u3a – Online Learning Events

As well as joining our groups you can subscribe to Interest Groups Online (formerly called Trust u3a). Interest Groups Online is a platform for collaborative learning. It is an online community, bringing people together from across the u3a movement and beyond. There are around 70 different groups that meet online across a wide range of subjects. Groups are interactive and vary depending on the needs of the participants. Find out more on our [Interest Groups Online page](#).

The Unification of the British Isles: A Lesson in Geology

Thursday, 3rd October 2.00 p.m. – 3.30 p.m.

Some 500 million years ago, Scotland was situated near to the equator. It was separated by a vast ocean from England and much of Europe, which lay close to the South Pole with ice sheets over the Sahara and Amazon.

England headed northwards and collided with Scotland around 400 million years ago, together with North America, to form a vast Himalayan-style mountain belt. Southern Europe and Africa joined a little later (some 100 million years after) to form the super continent of Pangea.

Relatively recently (circa 50 million years ago) North America decided to break away and is currently hurtling westwards forming the growing Atlantic Ocean. America tried to take Britain along for the ride, initially causing a lot of volcanism in Scotland but failed, leaving Britain perched on the edge of the Europe.



The Vital Role Chemistry has to play in Saving our Planet

Friday 11th October 2.00 p.m. – 3.00 p.m.

Chemistry is all around us and, because of this, often goes unnoticed in our daily lives. Most people leave it behind at school and don't think about it day-to-day. But some people go on to use their chemistry expertise to design new medicines, better batteries, cleaner electricity, technologies to clean our air and water, and so much more. When the Royal Society of Chemistry talked to people around the UK, it found that most people are really interested in how chemistry makes our lives better – and that chemists aren't always great at telling those stories. In this talk Jon Edwards will outline how the science of chemistry is improving our world and aim to help viewers feel more confident asking science questions and talking about how chemistry affects their lives.

How to join these events

These online events are free for members. Use this link below to discover the online learning events www.u3a.org.uk/events

Committee Contact Details

Chair	Susan Mitchell	chair@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk
Vice Chair	Marcia Dale	vicechair@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk
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Non-Committee:		
Speakers	Christine Ballance	speakers@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk
Newsletter	Sue Mitchell	newsletter@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk

National u3a News

If you would like to sign up for the National Newsletter or the North West Region Newsletter please use the links below

u3a National newsletter

<https://www.u3a.org.uk/news/newsletter>

North West Region Newsletter

<https://u3asites.org.uk/north-west/page/25318>

Contact Us

Lymm and Thelwall u3a web site:

<https://lymm-thelwall.u3asite.uk/>

Lymm and Thelwall u3a Facebook page:

<https://www.facebook.com/LymmThelwallu3ae>

enquiries@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk

Our Groups If you would like to join any of our groups, groups@lymmthelwallu3a.org.uk always contact the Group leader via the group page on the website. Click the icon to email the Group Leader. They will reply to you!!

Activity	Regular Meeting Day	Venue
Art	Friday a.m.	St Mary's Church Hall
Badminton	Wednesday a.m.	Grappenhall Community Centre
Book Club	1 st Thursday a.m.	The Spread Eagle, Lymm
Book Club 2	1 st Wednesday a.m.	The Little Manor, Thelwall
Crown Green Bowling	Monday p.m.	High Legh Bowling Club
Cinema	Occasional Outings	Various
Cycle maintenance	As and when required	
Cycling	2 nd Tuesday and 4 th Thursday	Various, see web site
Flower Arranging	2 nd Friday p.m.	St. Mary's Church Hall
French (Advanced)	2 nd and 4 th Thursday a.m.	The Sanctuary Hub Lymm
French Conversation Advanced	1 st Monday p.m.	The Spread Eagle Lymm
Games Group	1 st Tuesday p.m.	Lymm Village Hall
Genealogy	3 rd Tuesday am	Sanctuary Hub Lymm
German	Monday	Private home and via zoom
I.T. Group	2 nd and 4 th Wednesday a.m.	Lymm Baptist Church
The Lunch Group	3 rd Friday	Contact via website
Mosaic	Friday a.m.	St. Mary's Church Hall
Music Appreciation	2 nd Thursday p.m.	Lymm Youth / Community Centre
Philosophy	2 nd and 4 th Tuesday a.m.	The Spread Eagle, Lymm
Poetry	4 th Thursday	Sanctuary Hub Lymm
Sketching Out	Last Monday of the Month	Various
Stitch 'n' Natter	Wednesday a.m.	The Little Manor, Thelwall
Theatre and Concert	See web site	Various
Ukulele 4 Fun	Tuesday evening	United Reform Church
Walking Strollers	See website	Various
Walking 4-6ers	See Website	Various
Walking Friday Rambles	2 nd Friday	Varous
Walking Striders	2 nd Wednesday	Various
Wellbeing Birdwatching	1 st and 3 rd Friday	Various Locations
Writing Group	1 st Friday	The Spread Eagle

For those members who have no online access this letter can be posted to them.

