



## Tarporley and District U3A Newsletter

January 2022

The decorations are back in the box and we are back in the old routine and what a relief to know what day it is again after the long holiday! Whilst acknowledging that we still have to be careful in the face of Covid, we are currently planning to continue with our programme and Convenors will notify their groups of the precautions we should all take. If anything changes we will of course send an email to all members, but in the meantime, if you are going back to your interest groups, I hope you enjoy them safely.



This year sees the 40<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the U3A and National Office will be celebrating and publicising this fantastic organisation and so I'm going to ask you to put your thinking caps on and see what your groups could do to mark the anniversary. If you are not a member of any Interest Group, please do still get in touch with ideas for a way we could spread the word about Tarporley and District U3A. Please click this link to the National Bitesize Newsletter for more information about the anniversary and for lots of other information and online learning:

[u3a Newsletter Express - Happy New Year ✨ \(mailchi.mp\)](https://mailchi.mp/u3a/newsletter-express-happy-new-year)

Have you made any New Years resolutions? How about offering your help to your U3A Committee? We really could do with some new committee members this year in particular, we still need some assistance with finding and engaging speakers for our monthly meetings. Speakers are booked until June of this year and there are some great talks to come such as Sleight of Mind by Pete Turner and A Solo Walk Across Africa by Fran Sandham in February and March.

We have kept going through difficult times and we don't want to fail now so please step forward to offer your help and allow us to spread the load. Just email either me or Liz Carter and we can arrange for you to attend one of our Zoom committee meetings.

So, here's to a better year in 2022, with lots of activities and more of Edward's brilliantly organised trips to look forward to, we will all learn something, we will have fun and make and continue friendships whatever we get involved with!

**Raye Hurst**

## Happy New Year

So here it is another New Year  
Starts a bit like the last  
We thought we had countered covid  
But, don't be thinking so fast.

The delta variant conquered  
The boosters, we all got the jab  
But then came along Omicron  
Which wasn't nearly as fab

The Government huffed and puffed  
Not sure what way to turn

Some Tories were revolting  
Boris passports were their concern

We could all go to parties  
Or not, depends on who you heard  
Most of us behaved quite sensibly  
Some others were acting absurd

I wrote this ditty mid December  
With worrying headlines we hear  
Who knows what will befall us  
But wishing you a "Happy New Year"

**Bill Harrison**

**Members' Meeting on Thursday, 27<sup>th</sup> January at 9.45am**

**at Tarporley Community Centre**

**Chester Uncovered – Part 2**

**by Stephen Shakeshaft**



Stephen is a well-known and experienced registered Chester tour guide who has visited us in the past and is returning by popular demand to give us Part 2 of his talk on the history of Chester.

## TRIPS AND OUTINGS (Did they get there? Oh yes they did!)



We had an enjoyable outing to Llandudno in December. In the end the party was 15 of us in a 36 seater coach with Dave our driver. We could have spread out and had a seat each but everyone crowded into the front half!

The sun came out as we drive along the coast road making the journey itself a pleasant experience. We arrived bang on time at 11:30 with Covid Passes in hand.

There was nobody about as we slipped through the rotating glass entrance into the reception area and booking hall. Just as at Bridgewater Hall, not one of us was required to "sign in" and nobody asked to look at our Covid Passes. How ridiculous! I think the hospitality and cultural community must be sick to the back teeth of the regulations and the arbitrary changes to them.



The catering team were waiting for us at the Y Review restaurant and after getting wine/beer and coffees at the adjacent bar, the meal was quickly served. Some of the party had time for a quick breath of sea air on the prom before the performance at 1:00PM. I guess we were outnumbered by the children attending although the theatre was barely one third filled.

The performance was bright and colourful, silly (as you would expect), very corny but played with great exuberance. I think members enjoyed their day out in the main and I received many compliments for arranging the trip. Liz compared Aladdin to her London Palladium experiences which I think is unfair. Llandudno cannot attract the personalities you would find in a West End panto but, with ticket a quarter of the cost, it was good value for money.

We were home soon after 5:00PM having had a drive along the esplanade and through the high street.



**Edward Baskerville**



### MORE CHESHIRE LIMERICKS

We Northerners up in the West  
Just love to live life with a zest,  
So shielding's no joke  
For sensible folk -  
With Covid we'll not be obsessed.

The New Year should bring us good cheer,  
No lockdowns with campaigns of fear;  
We just make the plea,  
"We want to be free!"  
We people of lovely Chesh-ire.

**Keith Barker**

### Photography Group



Was jewellery on your Christmas list this year? Before Christmas the photography group decided jewellery would be their subject!



**Alan Durbin**

## Striders Walking Group looking back over 2021

We restarted our walks in April and enjoyed amongst others Selattyn Hill, Offa's Dyke and Oswestry Racecourse, Pen y Cloddiau and Moel Arthur in the spring and a beautiful walk to Moel Emoel from Bala in the summer. Below are two reports from some excellent walks in the autumn.

The group had a wonderful 10 mile walk in Derbyshire on 13 October. The weather was perfect, and we started in Hartington, and then followed the river Dove for a while, admiring the majestic heron and other wildlife on the way. The ascent to the ridge rewarded us with spectacular views of the landscape. All along the way we were treated to the beautiful picture-perfect colours of autumn. All in all, a lovely hike, with good company and well worth the drive to get there!

### Joan Parker



There were 15 walkers in total on 10 November all up for the challenge of a 15 km walk with an elevation of approximately 400 metres for our Chirk Llangollen Canal, Offa's Dyke, Ceiriog Valley, Aqueduct and Viaduct walk. The weather was very pleasant and Autumnal throughout with spells of bright blue skies, which enhanced the beautiful tree foliage along the canal side and hillside forests.



The walk commenced from the Caffi Wylfa walking to Chirk Station, then along the Llangollen canal, until it intersected with the Offa's Dyke path. We followed Offa's Dyke over fields with views of Chirk Castle in the distance. We then joined the Llwybr Ceiriog Trail north



of Warren Wood, descending to Castle Mill, the corn mill was in use from c1398 to c1800. At the bridge of the river crossing a plaque marked the Battle of Crogen, where in 1165 Henry II came to the Ceiriog Valley with a huge army and was defeated by an alliance of Welsh Princes led by Owen Gwynedd.

After crossing the River Ceiriog, we joined the Llwybr Maelor Way following the River Ceiriog until the village of Chirk Bank. We returned, walking along the Llangollen canal taking in views of Telford's Chirk Aqueduct (completed in 1801) and Robertson's Railway Viaduct (built around 1848) whilst crossing the river Ceiriog. A good day was had by all. **Eric Rogers**



## Those were the days

When I was five or maybe six  
 But still not yet quite seven,  
 The world was just a simple mix  
 And good children went to heaven.  
 Down slippery, grassy overhangs  
 We'd bump and laugh on cardboard  
 sleighs  
 In free abandon, a fearless gang  
 On hot, uncluttered days.  
 We seemed to have that sense of time,  
 We knew when meals were due,  
 We'd make the scrambling, uphill climb,  
 My fearless, mud-splashed crew.  
 The sweet shops bulged with sticky  
 delights:  
 Flying saucers, black jacks, pineapple  
 chunks,

Gob-stoppers far too big to bite  
 And sherbet bags with dabs to dunk.  
 We chanted tables in ordered rows,  
 We recited poems and rhymes,  
 In winter our free milk always froze,  
 It was colder in those times.  
 Uncle Mac would play our birthday  
 requests  
 And we'd sing at the Ugly Bug Ball  
 And laugh when the proud king did not  
 dress  
 The king is in the altogether - the all .....  
 The music almost died one day  
 When a box arrived at home,  
 A fat man shouted *Wakey Wakey*,  
 And the way we listened had gone.

**Thea Morgan**

## Table Tennis



Kelsall TT U3A held their Christmas competition. Eight mixed pairs teams competed in two leagues, with the winner of each league playing a best of five games final. The winners were Viv & David, with the runners up being Judy & Neil. Judy recently joined our TT group and was pleased to have been one of the winners. Afterwards 13 of us went to the Morris Dancer for a Christmas lunch.

**Stephen Doubt**

## Blackboard Blunders

- One of the most important forces is the force that pulls things to the ground, it is called gravy.
- In wartime, children who lived in big cities had to be evacuated, as it was safer in the country.
- Sometimes in the war they take prisoners and keep them as ostriches until the war is over. Some prisoners end up in concentration camps.
- A mosque is a sort of church. The main difference is that its roof is domed.
- On our activity holiday dad wanted to ride the horses, but mum said they were too expensive.
- The closest town to France is Dover. You can get to France on a train or a ferry.
- And at the end of the show we all sing Away in a Manger
- Helicopters are cleverer than planes. Not only can they fly they can also hover.
- In geography we learned that countries with sea around them are islands and ones without sea are continents.
- Sir Walter Raleigh circumnavigated the world with a big clipper.
- Crabs and creatures like them all belong to a family of crustaceans.
- In Scandinavia the Danish people come from Denmark, the Norwegians from Norway and the Laplanders from Lapland.
- If you marry two people you are a bigamist, but morons are allowed to do this.
- Then Joan of Arc met her end. She was burned as a stake.
- In last year's Christmas concert Linzi played the main part. I played one of the smaller parts.
- If it is less than 90 degrees it is a cute angle.

## Bill Harrison

### Country Dance / Folk Dance Group

Since September we have met 6 times with attendance between 4 and 10. Our present membership is 14. It has been suggested that we change our name to Country Dance, but we decided to keep Folk in the title too. Whatever our name, we have fun and some gentle exercise, as energetic as we wish.



At each meeting we dance 7 – 10 dances with time for a chat between them.

We have learned 3 dances from the 17<sup>th</sup> Century, and 2 more written in a similar style. Also 8 more lively dances, that might be danced at a ceilidh or barn dance.

For some of us this has meant learning a lot of new technical terms but I hope it has been fun. I think we are improving. I've tried to include easy dances and also something to make us think.

Two members have already taught dances and others have promised to do so soon. A great way to understand the dances better.

There are country dances for all numbers, but more for 8+ than for less than 6, so more members would be very welcome. We meet in Utkinton Village Hall near the junction of John Street & Quarry Bank. 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Thursdays, 1-3pm

### **Mo Waddington**

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**To respond, or contact any Committee member please phone  
the Secretary, Liz Carter, on 01829 732863 or email [Tarporleyu3a@outlook.com](mailto:Tarporleyu3a@outlook.com)**

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