



# Maghull and Lydiate U3A



Reg. Charity: No. 1116576

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## Superb, Stunning Stained Glass



The Glass Workshop group epitomises what the U3A really means; you have an idea, you find a course to get you started and you pass on your knowledge to others. John Jackson has a love of glass and a love of design; put them together and you have works of art.

The members who joined him learnt the basic skills of handling glass, designing, selecting pieces, choosing colours and textures and began to create beautiful objects. Clippers, goring pliers, grinders and

lead cams became part of their everyday vocabulary and from creating individual pieces the group moved on to their first commission.

Maghull Parish Hall had a window made up of eighteen individual pieces that was in need of repair and they turned to the U3A for help. All members of the group got together and between them created and built the amazing window we see there today.

Bob Jones and Ros Leith had used their skills to produce a U3A window that showed off their capabilities and this in turn gave the late Nigel Winchester an idea. The project closest to Nigel's heart was the re-development of Maghull Station and he thought the group could create windows to bring the bricked in windows of the station back to life. Sadly the lack of light made this impractical as it is the sun that gives life to the stained glass but the project was not abandoned. The answer was obvious, move the window to the waiting room.

The Group met with Merseyrail and designs were created, and adapted until finally everyone was happy and the work could begin. The result is breathtaking and gives pleasure to all; it makes us proud of our Station and all those who have helped make it all it is today. Jane Jones



## NEWS BITES

**COFFEE MORNINGS.**  
Tuesdays 10:00 - 11:30  
Maghull Baptist Church  
Hall Tea/coffee served  
until 11:00 On the 12th  
of September we will be  
returning to the Baptist  
Church so tea/coffee will  
be available again.

### NEW GROUP - BIRD WATCHING

The interest shown in this group has been very positive. There will be a meeting on the 12th of September for all those wishing to sign up. This meeting will be at the Baptist Church at 10:30

### BEGINNERS' SPANISH GROUP

The next beginners' group will be at Lydiate Village Centre on the 14th of September at 11:00



## Memorial Window Dedication Ceremony

On the 16th of June a very special ceremony took place at Maghull Station, a stained glass window was unveiled in memory of two remarkable local men. Nigel Winchester and Alan Pritchard were both chairmen of the award-winning Maghull Station Volunteers group. The pair were committed rail enthusiasts and passionate about the station, which has won numerous awards under their stewardship, including the National Train Award for Best Small Station in 2013.

In honour of their service this window, which signifies the railway as the gateway to the world, was been installed in the Liverpool-bound waiting room. At the emotional ceremony, it was unveiled by Nigel and Alan's widows, Ena & Eileen, alongside the Mayor of Maghull Councillor Byrne. It was officially dedicated by Reverend George Perera.

Deadline for items for our October Newsletter is the 20th of September. Available 26th of September

## An Artist in Residence



Margaret Walton got her first taster for Art when she was nine years old she made a copy of a portrait of Sir Walter Raleigh at school. Over the years Margaret taught herself how to paint and through it bring much pleasure to herself and others.

Margaret's first painting of note was 'Rhinceros' painted to provide some art work for her and Harry's first home. She carried on, often painting for presents for friends. One of her skills was copying the great artists and at one time Margaret came close to a great career in Art forgery!! In 1968 she entered 'The People's housewives

painting competition and from over 10,000 entrants came away with a highly commended award.

She started her painting career using oils but as her lounge was her studio and walking around the easel for days as the oil paint took ages to dry out became tiresome, a change was needed!

Her first watercolour was of Tiger Lilies from a bouquet she had received. It was satisfying that as the flowers passed their best and died she was capturing them for ever in paint. But her greatest satisfaction comes from the paintings she made of her mother and daughters; these hold pride of place amongst a catalogue of treasures.

Commissions came to Margaret from many sources including St Helen's Church in Sefton Village for whom she has produced Christmas cards but it is for Maghull Station that Margaret has produced her most well known works. The office building with its bricked in windows was in need of a make-over and Margret was asked if she could bring the 'dead windows' back to life. Her first idea was to paint curtains and a vase of flowers in each recess but then another idea struck her. She began to paint murals linked to the building, the town and the surrounding area instead. Today the paintings delight & intrigue us as we try and work out some of the familiar faces amid the characters she has captured. Painting fulfils Margaret but although always working she also finds time to turn her wonderful garden into a work of art of its own. Her love of colour, shape and her eye for detail made the garden a great place to bring our interview to an end but if you wish you can see more of Margaret's wonderful paintings on our website.

Jane Jones



## ACROSS THE SEA TO IRELAND

The 17<sup>th</sup> of July saw a happy coach load of U3A members heading off to Ireland. En route to Holyhead we had a short comfort and shopping break at Llanfair-p.g...!! Once aboard the Ulysses, we had a good crossing, the sea was like a mill pond. Our final destination was the lovely Riverside Park Hotel, located on the River Slaney, in Enniscorthy.

On Tuesday, we were driven to Powerscourt Gardens and Waterfall, Ireland's highest at 398ft, set in 45 acres and overlooked by Sugarloaf Mountain. We enjoyed glorious sunshine whilst exploring these beautiful gardens with our scenic return trip taking us through the Wicklow Mountains and on to Avoca, the setting of T.V. series Ballykissangel.

A visit to New Ross on Wednesday took us on a guided tour of the Dunbrody Famine Ship. What an eye opener! The poor starving Irish sold what little they had to pay for passage to the Americas. The conditions were horrendous! Our next stop was the Waterford Crystal Factory where we watched skilled craftsmen transforming glowing balls of molten crystal into beautiful shapes..

Kilkenny was our Friday destination where we were able to explore shops and visit the impressive 12th century castle originally built by William Marshall. We returned to the hotel with time to explore Enniscorthy before dinner or enjoy the hotel's spa facilities. It was also time to leave our lovely hotel, delicious food and cheerful friendly staff but we had a guided tour of the Guinness Storehouse in Dublin to see and taste the famous brew.

Sadly the Irish Sea was no mill pond this time. It proved to be a rocky sail but we all arrived at Holyhead unscathed, (I think!) We missed our leader Marj, but her second in command Sylvia kept us all in check, thanks Sylvia. Begorra, it was a grand holiday!

Rhona Simon



## DAY TRIPS -

**Leader:** Marj Atlay 526 4665  
**Asst:** Sylvia Adams

**Wed. 27th Sept.** Daisy Nook Garden Centre where we will have morning coffee/cake with a talk about this interesting area, a favourite of L.S.Lowry. We continue with a tour of the Saddleworth Villages, stopping for a 3 course set lunch at the Old Bell Inn Delph. We visit Upper Mill, the largest village and if time allows Granddad Green's Ice Cream Emporium. Dep. 09:15 Ret.18:00 Price £23.00

**Wed. 18th Oct.** Stopping at Ena Mill, a former cotton spinning mill, now converted into an outlet, in time for coffee. On to Rivington Hall Barn for a 2 course lunch/tea/ coffee, followed by an afternoon of entertainment by the Lancashire Folk Group 'The Houghton Weavers.' Dep. 09:15 Ret.18:00 £25.00

## LOCAL HISTORY

**Leader:** Dennis Stevens 531 9188

**Asst. Leader:** Wyn Taylor 526 5467

**Convenor:** Bidni O'Donnell 476 2115

**Venue:** Lydiat Village Hall

14:00 - 16:00

**5th September - Derek Arnold - 'How the Royal Iris and the royal Daffodil got their names'**

**3rd. October - Diane Cox - 'Liverpool women - Pioneers'**

**7th November - Andy Johnson - 'The Giants' Visit to Liverpool'**



## Practical Gardening Digs Deep

Our Practical Gardening group was one year old in June and our enthusiastic discussions have overall been about enjoying and getting the very best from our gardens. We have talked about such delights as reclaiming our borders and plant rejuvenation, growing sweet peas, tulips and dahlias (plus storage of the last two), seed planting, composting, garden design and lots, lots more. We have had lots of practical demonstrations including taking cuttings, planting a spring bulb pot, soil testing, starting a herb garden/pot and planting pots. Following excellent guidance and encouragement from Brian (Leach) and Bill Ashton, both very experienced vegetable growers, most of us have started growing potatoes and courgettes which we will be harvesting soon. We have a successful plot at Hudson Primary for those interested in growing fruit and vegetables.

Whilst summer gardens have been wonderful we have started thinking about getting ready for winter. Autumn jobs should include:

Encouraging birds back into our gardens as they eat some of the nasty bugs that ruin our plants.

Attracting bees by growing open daisy shaped flowers

Buy and plant some small veg plants (e.g. small cabbages, caulies, broad beans, flowering broccoli and winter lettuce) and plant between flowers if short of space. Most should be ready early spring.

Plant indoor hyacinth bulbs – ready for Christmas

Collect wood ash (from burning prunings) and leaf mould which are gardening gold. To make leaf mould, collect fallen leaves in bin bags, pierce holes through with a fork and leave to rot down.

Prune roses, remove thin shoots & reduce height by about a third to reduce wind damage. Collect & burn any leaves with black spot.

Deadhead flowers unless you want seeds. Keep any seeds collected in labelled envelopes (any surplus seeds to Maureen Ward please to send to a Torture Victim gardening group)

Slugs – keep a box with a splash of washing up liquid in handy to drop slugs into. E covert is also eco friendly.

Turn compost ..... and overall enjoy!!



Dot Brannigan



*If you know of any member who is ill or in need, please inform Lill Boyle (Welfare) on 526 4303*

# Beautiful Roses, Beautiful Day



The David Austin Rose Garden, Albrighton is considered by many to be one of the most beautiful in the world. Over 700 different varieties of roses are planted in the garden which now covers around 2 acres. The garden is divided into a number of smaller areas, each with its own style. Each a delight to visit.

Having arrived at David Austin in bright sunshine we split into two groups. One group meandered enthusiastically around the vast selection of roses for sale at discount prices and the well stocked gift shop. The other group toured the beautiful gardens led by Head Gardener Steve whose knowledge of roses and getting the best from them was immense (to be shared at the next Practical Gardening meeting).

We then gathered for a lovely lunch in a marquee set up for our sole use before the groups swapped over. Some made use of umbrellas but luckily only as sunshades. We had a lovely afternoon tea but then faced the difficult decisions around which roses to buy at the cost of leaving others behind. This was a memorable day not least due to the great care taken by Barbara and Anne in making the arrangements. Sincere thanks to you both.

Dot Branningan

## THEATRE GROUP

**Leaders:** Pat Kelly 476 1726 and Ann Unsworth



THEATRE	SHOW	DATE	PRICE
Liverpool Empire	Cilla	Friday 8 <sup>th</sup> Sept	£45.00 TT
Liverpool Empire	Giselle	Friday 27 <sup>th</sup> Oct	£30.00 TT
Philharmonic Hall	Spirit of Christmas	Thursday 21st Dec	£43.00 TT
Philharmonic Hall	New Year's Eve	Sunday 31st Dec	£42.00 TT

## A Taste of the Netherlands 24th - 29th June 2018

Join us for a six day break to the Netherlands staying at the 4\* Fletcher Hotel just outside Amersfoort. Excursions include Amsterdam, Marken, Edam, Volendam, Zaanse Schans, the De Haar Castle - the largest and most luxurious castle in the Netherlands, and Arnhem with a guided tour of the open air museum. Cost is in the region £485.00 (before the group discount) with a single supplement of £70.00 for the first ten singles and £110.00 after that. Booking now open. For more information pick up a flier at the Tuesday Coffee Morning or ring 526 2530

## DISCUSSION GROUP

**Leader:** Brian Leach 284 8454

**Chair:** Bert Dowell

**Venue:** Melling Tithebarn

13:30 - 15:00 Entrance £1.00

**Thursday 28th September -**

**Greatness:** *What does it mean?*

## MATHS FOR FUN

**Leader:** Wanda Leach 284 8454

**Venue:** Kensington House, Station Rd

14:30 - 16:30 Entrance £1.50

**Wed 6th September -**

**Packaging:** *the maths inside the boxes*



## Ascent of Moel Famau

Thursday July 6th saw the walking group head for Moel Famau in the Clwydian Range. Leaving the Baptist Church car park around 09:30 we made very good time arriving in the pretty village of Cilcain at 10:50.

It was already warm as we left the village in bright sunshine and took the bridle path ascent. Lunch was eaten at the summit whilst looking down at the wonderful view of Ruthin nestling beneath us. A moment in the sun and then we descended via the steeper 'stairs' which got us back to the village hall at 14:30 for very welcome tea and cake supplied by Sonja and Kate, courtesy of the village shop.

Thanks girls.

Phil Davidson

