



Maghull and Lydiate U3A



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Diana's Dresses Dazzle

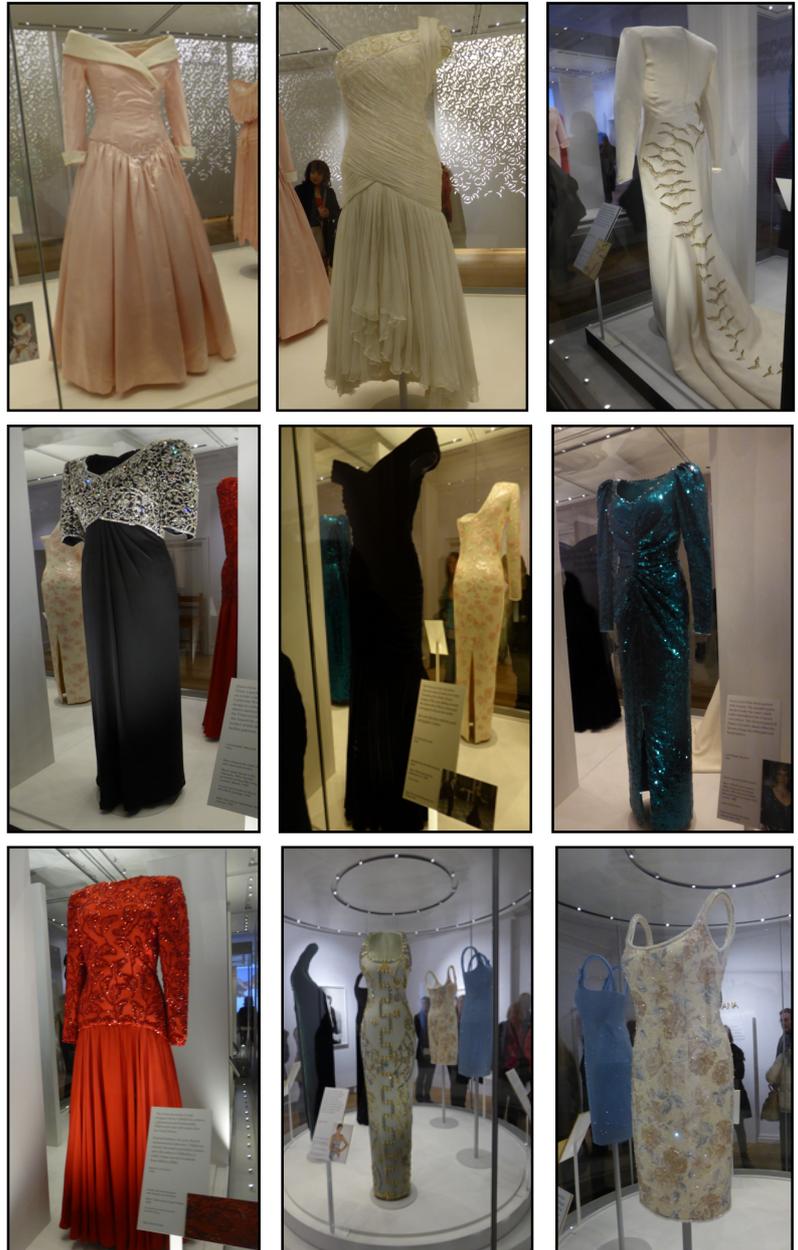
London always has something to offer and on our recent break it didn't disappoint. Our hotel was excellent and its South Kensington position perfect for our needs. We started our break with a visit to Kensington Palace, once home to Diana, Princess of Wales and now home to many of the younger Royals. We saw the ornate gates that were adorned with flowers so many years ago to commemorate her loss but inside was the real treasure.

Some of the iconic dresses that Diana wore were displayed at the Palace; dresses we'd seen on the news, in interviews, on documentaries on show for the first time in Britain. The quality of the work, the exquisite beading, the ornate stitching could only be truly appreciated up close.

The rich ink blue velvet of the Travolta dress, the amazing bead work of the Versace Harper's Bazaar dress, the sea-green sequined evening dress from 1980 and the sumptuous silk crepe gown with beautiful falcons down the train worn on a diplomatic visit to the Middle East. Each one was like a trip down memory lane, each one was still stunning.

The dresses were beautiful and accompanied by photos of Diana wearing each one evoked memories of a time when she was the name on everyone's lips. She was an icon that we all felt we knew. The exhibition was wonderful but there was an eerie feeling about the collection; they were still here but she wasn't.

Jane Jones



Maghull & Lydiate U3A AGM - 22nd May 2018

This year's AGM will be at the Baptist Church starting at 10:00. The meeting is your chance to voice your opinion as to how our U3A is doing. Elections for the Chair, Officers and the Committee will take place and as always there are places on the Committee for new members. Could one of them be you? Nomination papers will soon be out, think how good it would look if your name was on one of them! Please try and attend this year - we need your support.

Deadline for items for our June Newsletter is the 19th of May. Available 29th of May

THE BOOK OF THE DEAD

Our visit to Victoria Gallery was to say the least eclectic. The main aim was to view The Egyptian Book of The Dead. Chris, our guide, enthralled us re the ancient cultural rituals required for eternal life. The exhibition, though small, was informative and enjoyable, I mean, did you know the first Pharaohs were from Persia, that Egypt was conquered twice by the Persians and that Cleopatra was not a native Egyptian?



We all know the Egyptians believed in the afterlife and that all preparation should be made to ensure a comfortable and happy existence in the world to follow. It turns out they believed taxes had to be paid in that world and that manual labour had to be done too. Not something the rich members of Egyptian society fancied so they created small statues of servants to take with them to the afterlife. Once there these would be re-animated to do the work for them!!



The Book of the Dead was created as almost a get out clause for the Egyptians. Each hour they spent in the afterlife was governed by a Guardian who would challenge them on their journey. To get past each Guardian they would recite the incantations from the Book and be allowed through. A scarab beetle laid on their chest would enable them to lie about the sins/harm they had cause in their mortal life so that at the ceremony of the weighing of the heart (see above) they would pass with flying colours! This was a truly fascinating tour, the Egyptians brought back to life, as it were by our knowledgeable guide.



The second guide gave us an informal talk about this wonderful building which was the first University Of Liverpool. Built by Alfred Waterhouse it is a Grade 11 listed building.

The lecture room was eerie with a feint whisper of autopsy about it and we visited the museum on the top floor filled with artefacts from our heritage. The array of false teeth certainly caused a discussion or two!

We dined in the lovely cafe in the shadow of past scholars and I am sure many of the members will return to our much under appreciated gem in Ashton Street again and again.

Moe Birchall Art Appreciation

DAY TRIPS Leader: Marj Atlay 526 4665 Asst: Sylvia Adams

Wed.23rd May - Stop first at Derwen Garden Centre Welshpool then on to Lake Vyrnwy, the reservoir built in the 1800's to supply Liverpool with clean water. Guided tour round the lake. Time to see the Lake area. Dep.08.30 Ret.18:00 Price £19 inc. tour

Wed.20th June - Visit to Country Harvest lovely well stocked shop with excellent coffee area. Onto Sedbergh, the town made rich with its' wool connections. Time to look round - it is market day. On to Farfield Mill, a former woollen mill, now converted into an interesting venue. Dep. 09.15 Ret.18:00 Price £15.00

Short Break - 12th July to 16th July 2018 5 days/4 nights at the Holiday Inn at Colchester in the lovely rural county of Essex. Really interesting excursions. **One twin room available Don't delay book to-day** Price £380.00. Full details at Day Trips table/website

Short Break - 19th - 23rd Nov.2018 - 5 days/4 nights Clarence House Hotel, Tenby. Usual Facilities. 3 interesting excursions, Evening entertainment other hotel extras. Price £299. less with group discount. Full details at our table/website.

All trips depart from/return to Central Square. **Balance must be paid 3 weeks prior to date of trip.**

DISCUSSION GROUP

Leader Brian Leach 284 8454

Chair Bert Dowell

Venue Melling Tithebarn, Tithebarn Lane 13.30 - 15.00 Admission £1

Thurs 24th May Topic TBA

FAMILY HISTORY

Leaders: David Russell 526 6527

Rosney Leith 526 3623

Venue: Lydiate Village Centre

Lambshear Lane Lydiate 1:30 - 3:30

Friday 4th May - My Family Story by Pamela Russell

GARDEN VISITS

Leaders: Ann Raw 526 6086

Barbara Short 526 1119

Wed 18th May - Bodnant Gardens

Our coffee stop this morning will be at Tweedmill, then we will travel on to Bodnant gardens, set in the gentle hills east of the river Conway. Bodnant gardens looks spectacular throughout the year but with spring comes the beautiful laburnum arch, magnolias, rhododendrons etc.

There is a tearoom and gift shop.

Cost: Non NT members - £24.00

NT members. - £14.00

Leave Maghull Square 9.00am

return 18:00approx.

Friday 11th May - Monday 14th

May - four day break visiting the Malvern Spring Show, a must for any gardener, Powis Castle, Chepstow, Hereford Cathedral where the world famous "Mappa Mundi" is housed. We will be staying at the Mercure Gloucestershire Bowden Hall hotel on a d/b/b basis.

Wed 17th October - Sunday 21st

October - Holiday to Tuscany and Chianti. Staying in the lovely hill town of San Gimignano, visiting Pisa, Florence, Siena and much more.

GLASS WORKSHOP

Leader: John Jackson 526 2900

Venue: Lydiate Village Centre

Meetings are held on **Friday 11th, 18th & 25th of May**

The Royal Albert Hall

Opened in 1871 by Queen Victoria in memory of her beloved Albert, the Hall has become one of the most recognised buildings in London. We had the pleasure of a guided tour on our recent London trip. Our knowledgeable guide gave us not only the history of the building but anecdotes of many of the stars who have played at the Hall.

We saw the Royal Box and found out why it is not directly opposite the stage. You'd never have guessed that the Hall had dreadful acoustics when it was built and the Royal Box was placed in a the best spot in the house! We stood at the entrance to the Royal Box and were impressed to learn that the box, when not in use by the Royal Family, is offered to the Palace staff and their friends!

The spectacle that is the Hall did not disappoint. The plush red seating & curtains give the Hall the feel of sumptuous luxury and the vastness of the place took our breath away when we stood on the highest gallery and looked down.

The band that was rehearsing for that evening's performance gave us music and a light show and later we finished our tour with tea and pastries in bone china cups; the whole experience was perfect!

Jane Jones



CONGRATUATIONS ALL ROUND



Ethel Kelly, who helps out in the tearoom at the U3A, had cause to celebrate last month as she had her 90th birthday.

Ethel was presented with a large chocolate cake by her friends and colleagues in the kitchen.

All at the U3A wish Ethel a very happy birthday and many more of them.

On the 5th of April Gwyneth and Wil Smith achieved their 60th Wedding anniversary.

They celebrated in style with the Welsh group, enjoying the morning with Bucks Fizz a "wedding cake" and a bouquet of flowers.

Our congratulations and best wishes go to the happy couple.

Jane Jones



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

LOCAL HISTORY

Leader: Dennis Stevens 531 9188
Asst. Leader: Wyn Taylor 526 5467
Convenor: Bidni O'Donnell 476 2115
Venue: Lydiate Village Hall
First Tue of the month 14:00 - 16:00
Tuesday 1st May - George Harrison will talk about being a Stockman in the Liverpool area.

MATHS FOR FUN

Leader: Wanda Leach 284 8454
Venue: Kensington House, Station Rd
2nd May - More Numbers - Strange Patterns
 14:30 - 16:30 Entrance £1.50

TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE

Leader: Phil Davidson 526 6805
Assts: Colin Bennett 526 0752
 Frank Wood 287 5462
Venue: Kensington House Stat. Rd
 Meetings 2nd & 4th Wedn@14:30
Wed 9th May - Circadian Rhythms
Wed 23rd May - Stereoscopic Photography

WHAT AM I?



Photo by Collette Dickson
 Answer in the June newsletter

THEATRE GROUP Leaders: Pat Kelly 476 1726 and Ann Unsworth



THEATRE	SHOW	DATE	PRICE
Royal Exchange	Happy Days	Fri 1st June	TBA
Empire	Michael Jackson	Fri 29th June	TBA
Everyman	Othello	Tue 10th July	TBA

Then and Now

In 1946 Bill Burkey received his call up papers and at the ripe old age of 18 was sent for training to Northern Ireland. Along with everyone else Bill waited patiently to find out which branch of the armed forces he was going to be assigned to and after a mere six weeks of training found himself heading to the Colchester Army Fire Service Training School before he joined the RASC.



He was drilled until perfect and once he could run out the hose, scale a 40' ladder and slide down a pole Bill was assigned to a fire station in Hamburg.

As one can imagine in 1947 German men were still returning to their pre-war lives and many had not completed their journey so there was a shortage of men in the towns and cities. The British Army were there to man the fire stations and did so for quite a time. Two stations were manned in Hamburg and Bill was based at the station nearest to the docks. The shifts were 24 hours on 24 hours off giving Bill a chance to learn some German. The equipment was very basic, no protective clothing just wellies to keep their feet dry and they wore the same helmets as the ordinary soldiers. There was no animosity shown towards the British soldiers, indeed the people of Hamburg were grateful for their assistance.

Bill served in Hamburg until 1948 when he came home and joined the Liverpool Salvage Corps. In July 1979 Bill received a letter of commendation from the Chief Constable for displaying courage, determination and professional competence in keeping with the traditions of the LSC.

Bill stayed with the LSC for thirty five years and on his retirement went to work as a Superintendent for Parks and Gardens for Maghull Council.

In 2006 he heard the call about the setting up of a U3A in Maghull and went along. He was the forty ninth person to join the new organisation, becoming involved with the Walking Group and serving his time on the Committee.

Last year Bill had the opportunity to re-visit his old station in Hamburg. It brought back many happy memories, of friends and colleagues and the resident fire chief and crews made him so welcome he quite fancies going back one day!

Jane Jones



New Holidays coming out in May

23rd - 28th June 2019 Six day break to Northern Ireland visiting Belfast (and the Titanic Experience), Derry, Giants Causeway, Bushmills, Mount Stewart Gardens and more. £569.00 pp

17th - 26th September 2019 Ten day cruise on the River Danube. Visiting Vienna, Budapest, Bratislava and more. £1,255 pp Monthly payment scheme available. Contact Jane on 0151 526 2530 or see the Holiday Desk.

For general enquiries please contact us on: mandlu3a@gmail.com