



# Maghull and Lydiate U3A



Reg. Charity: No. 1116576

ISSUE 118 May 2019

## Knutsford and Capesthorpe Hall

Although 18<sup>th</sup> March was a wet Monday morning our coach was full as we headed off on our trip. First stop, Knutsford, home of Elizabeth Gaskell's 'Cranford' (watched recently on TV by many people) Along the Heritage walk many buildings were marked out with plaques to tell us what the buildings had been used for in a past life and their 'Cranford' connections. The myriad of small streets and tiny shops adding to the appeal. Lunch was taken at the Cafe/Penny Farthing museum surrounded by an amazing collection of penny farthing bikes including its oldest example made of wood. It would have been easy to spend the whole day browsing but we departed for our next destination.

Capesthorpe Hall near Macclesfield, an imposing Jacobean building surrounded by open fields with sheep grazing and daffodils trying to stay upright. The house, home to the Bromley-Davenport family, was a treasure trove of pictures and artefacts. Large imposing portraits of Charles I and Queen Henrietta, balanced out later with a smaller portrait of Oliver Cromwell. The beautiful staircase invited someone to walk down in a ballgown but the interest was caught by a marble seat at the foot of the stairs. Discovered by a gardener as he was digging, it was thought to have been 'lost' by Romans moving along the roman road which once passed below the house. The bedrooms were equally impressive one containing the Robes of a past Speaker of the House of Commons.

Below stairs was a fascinating collection of family papers and photographs allowing us to view and share their marriages, christening and happy family occasions through the years. The last stop a room full of 'interesting objects', from an early washing machine to a vermin catcher.

A short walk through the gardens and our final visit was to the family's Private Chapel with a family graveyard to one side and a small pet cemetery on the other.

We finished with a delicious cream tea before our journey home. Our thanks to Ann and Barbara for a full and interesting trip and look forward to the next one.

*Maureen Lavelle*

## Maghull & Lydiate U3A AGM

This year's AGM will be at the Baptist Church on the 21st of May. Doors open at 09:30 with the AGM starting at 10:00. The meeting is your chance to voice your opinion as to how our U3A is doing. Please try and attend this year bringing your current membership card with you.

## Quick Bites

### Guitar Group

We are looking to start a guitar group; if interested please contact Group Support or ring Brenda on 07900525222

### Calligraphy Group

This group will hold a meeting in St Peter's Church Hall, Moorhey Road opposite Hudson School on 15th May 13:30 –15:00.

At present we are looking for a leader or co-ordinator. Contact Group Support desk on a Tuesday or ring Brenda on 07900525222

### Nordic Walking

The venue for this Group is Lydiate Parish Hall Southport Road 18.30 to 20.00.

**'Serving the Nation'** – This book was written by one of our members, Cliff Duncan & relates his experience of National Service in the 1950s. A copy of the book can be downloaded from the internet or a hard copy may be borrowed from Cliff. Please remember to return the book when you are done.

### The Fifty Pence Rule

What's it all about? Find out all about it on page three.

### Tai Ji

There will be no meeting of this group on May 10th.

Items for the newsletter should be sent to: [maghullandlydiateu3anewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:maghullandlydiateu3anewsletter@gmail.com)

Deadline for items for our June Newsletter is the 17th of May. Available on the 27th of May

## ARCHAEOLOGY

**Convenor:** Colin Hignett 531 9763

**Asst.:** Eric Purvis

**Venue:** Kensington House 14:30 - 16:30 Every 2nd Friday of the month.

**10th May** - An introduction to Archaeology & the Hundred Years' War.

## ART APPRECIATION

**Leader:** Maureen Birchall 287 0308

**Asst:** Marje Rusling 531 7179

**Art Break** - A trip has been organised with the Architecture for Fun group from Sunday 28th July until Tuesday 30th July.

We will visit Bletchley Park on the way to London on the 28th and will stay at the 4\* Double Tree by Hilton Docklands for 2 nights b/b.

We include visits to Eltham Palace, Dulwich Picture Gallery & Greenwich; a World Heritage Site. Cost is £260.00 pp with a £100.00 single supplement charge. Book at the Art desk.

## COMPUTER GROUP

**Leaders:** Rhoda Myers 531 0921

Colin 526 0752 Phil 526 6805

Tony 924 0040 Doug 07729077278

**Venue:** Maghull Baptist Church Hall

**Help Desk:** Tuesday a.m. 'drop in'.

Bring your laptop or tablet in and we will see if we can help. We love a challenge.

**Tuesdays & Fridays 14:00 - 16:00** One to one help available (appt only.)

**DAY TRIPS** **Leader:** Marj Atlay 526 4665 **Asst:** Sylvia Adams 531 9001

**Spring Break** - There will be a meeting in the Coffee Room at 11:15 on the 28th of May to go through the final arrangements for the Skipton break. If you cannot make it could you please ensure someone can pick up your pack for you.

**Fri. 7th June** - Visit to the lovely Portmeirion Italian Village. Lots of interest plus shops, cafes, land train etc. then onto Porthmadog a lovely Harbour Town on the edge of the Snowdonia National Park.  
Dep. 8.30am Ret. 6pm. Price £21 inc. entrance to the Village.

## DAY TRIPS continued

**Turkey n Tinsel in Scotland** - 2nd Dec. to 6th Dec. 2019. 5 days/4 nights D/ B/B staying at the Rob Roy Hotel which is only a short stroll from the pretty village of Aberfoyle. The hotel has a good reputation for comfort, food etc. and all the rooms have the usual mod-cons.

Entertainment is provided and excursions / entrances are included. **PRICE:** £299pp. No Single Supp. Deposit £60pp Free Insurance

A deposit is required on all trips please. All trips dep. from and return to Central Square.

**Please ensure you have your membership card with you at the time of booking.**

## DIGITAL CAMERA GROUP

**Leaders:** Peter Martin 526 9406

Terry Horrobin 526 1249

**Venue:** St Andrews Church Room.

Mondays 14:00 - 16:00 fortnightly

Forthcoming topics:

**13th May** - 'Stone'

**3rd June** - 'Countryside'

The group will close for the summer break after the June meeting.

## FAMILY HISTORY

**Leaders:** David Russell 526 6527

Rosney Leith 526 3623

**Venue:** Lydiat Village Centre 13:30

**3rd. May** - What can you find out about your relatives in 1871? Families are often a treasure trove of scandals and surprises, come and find out about yours!! Who knows what secrets you'll uncover! Make a note in your diary for our special 'Open Day' on the 7th of June.

## GLASS WORKSHOP

**Leader:** John Jackson 526 2900

**Venue:** Lydiat Village Centre

Fridays - 14:00 - 16:00

Workshops will be held on: 10th, 17th, 24th and 31st of May. If the world of design appeals this could be the group for you.

## GARDEN VISITS

**Leaders:** Ann Raw 526 6086

Barbara Short 526 1119

**Asst.** Doreen Bird

**Friday 14th June** - We have planned a visit to BBC Gardener's World Live 2019 show at NEC Birmingham. This is the ultimate day out for garden lovers. Plenty to see and do. From the inspiring show gardens, floral marquees, plant growers and the nation's favourite garden experts live including Monty Don, Carol Klein, Alan Titchmarsh and many more.

Enjoy entrance to the Good Food Show and sample delicious food and drink with food experts Mary Berry, Tom Kerridge and many more. One ticket gets you into two great shows. Cost, inc. entrance, shows & coach is £30.00 We leave Maghull square 08.00 prompt and return at 18:00/18:30 approx.

**10th July** - Wednesday Derwen Garden Centre and Dingle Gardens  
Full details of this trip will be found in our next issue.

## HISTORY FOR FUN

**Leader:** Norman Stalford

**Venue:** Kensington House

**Meet:** Third Friday in the month

**May 17th** - Our topic is the 'War of the Roses. It's time to pick sides as we delve into the history of the longest family feud in English history.

## LOCAL HISTORY

**Leader:** Denis Stevens 531 9188

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

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

**Venue:** Lydiat Village Hall

**First Tuesday** monthly 14:00 - 16:00

**Cost:** £2.00

On the 4th of April Mr Stuart Harrison gave us a talk and slide show on 'The Moss Side Hospital and War Hospital'. This fascinating topic gave us an insight into what life was like at the hospital and showed us how things have changed in recent years.

**May 7th** - Illness has brought about a change in speaker for our next meeting. Today Diane Goodier will give a talk on 'Vikings in Merseyside'.

## MATHS FOR FUN

**Leader:** Wanda Leach 284 8454

**Venue:** Kensington House, Station Rd

14:30 - 16:30 Admission - £1.00

There will be no meeting in May .

**Wednesday 5th June** - *It's easy when you know how!*

Last time, we found that Sudoku and Kakuro are not so scary after all; so we will continue to tackle more puzzles, including logic ones.

## TABLE TENNIS

**Leaders:** Carolyn Comaish 526 4478

George Dobie 285 0119

**Tuesdays 14:00 & Fridays 14:00**

**Venue:** Maghull Baptist Church Hall

For a fun way to keep fit!

## TECHNOLOGY & SCIENCE

**Leader:** Phil Davidson 526 6805

**Asst:** Colin Bennett 526 0752

**Venue:** Kensington House 14:30

2<sup>nd</sup>. & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays

Our topics for the month are:

**8th May** - Lignite in the Latrobe Valley

**22nd May** - Rayon at the British Enka, Aintree

## SUNDAY STROLLERS

**Leader:** John McKenzie 531 0207  
or 0790052522

**May 19th.** - Murder Mystery Fun

We are heading off to Chester to solve a Murder Mystery! The walk is advertised as a circular trail around the peaceful River Dee finishing in the lovely Grosvenor Park.

## 'The Fifty Pence Rule'

*Our U3A has now been going for some twelve years, during which time all of us have found new friends, new interests and in some ways a new family. We all know how hard the group leaders, the committee, the tea ladies, the setting up teams, the membership team, the treasury team and indeed all our volunteers work and we all aim to work alongside them.*

*Our treasury team, in particular, needs your help and all they're asking for is something so simple you'll find it the easiest thing in the world to do. Every Tuesday they count and bag every penny that is paid in; you know what it's like counting and sorting coins in your own home so imagine what it's like when the amounts being counted come to almost a thousand pounds! I bet you're tired just thinking about it!*

*You can help - big time - just by making sure that the smallest coin you hand in to the group leaders, the tea ladies, the book sellers, to everyone, is no smaller than fifty pence.*

*It's that simple! I know sometimes you might just not have a fifty pence piece on you when you fancy that cup of coffee or tea but maybe your friend can change those twenties and that ten pence in their own purse?*

*The treasury team really could do with us all pulling together on this and whilst we all know all coins are legal tender; it would make a huge difference to the team if we all tried to make this small change.*

*From all of us - thank you.*

## SUNDAY STROLLERS continued

The walking distance is approximately three miles but the path is not suitable for wheelchairs as some parts may be muddy.

We will be getting the 09:09 train from Maghull Station arriving in Chester just before 11:00.

We plan to find somewhere to have lunch in Chester.

Appropriate clothing should be worn, the deerstalker is at your own discretion!

For full details see the website.

## Bottle Tops Problems

*Thank you to all of you who have brought in milk bottle tops for our defibrillator appeal.*

*Sadly the lady who was overseeing the project has had to give up and no new contact has been found.*

*With that in mind we have decided to suspend the collection for the foreseeable future.*



## Holiday Dates for your Diaries.

*We still have a twin cabin available on our Danube Cruise departing on the 17th. of September this year.*

*April 24th. 2020 - Enjoy a Murder Mystery break at the Hallmark Derby Midland Hotel in Derby. Our three day break will give you a chance to be Poirot or Miss Marple, Columbo or Vera or even Sherlock Holmes if you choose! Full details will be available at the holiday Desk from the 14th of May when booking opens.*

*September 2020 - At the request of a few members a trip has been arranged to the Somme and Passchendaele battlefields of northern France. The five day trip will be escorted by a professional guide and will be based in Arras. We need a minimum of 35 people to ensure this trip goes ahead so if interested please let me know at the Holiday Desk.*

*For full details of any of these breaks please contact Jane Jones on 526 2530 or ask at the Holiday Desk.*

## TUESDAY COFFEE MORNINGS

10:00 - 11:15



Maghull Baptist Church Hall  
Tea/coffee served until 11:00

Time for a cuppa, a chat and a  
chance to make new friends.

## THEATRE GROUP

Leaders: Pat Kelly 476 1726, Ann Unsworth & Sue Quinn



THEATRE	SHOW	DATE	PRICE
Royal Exchange	West Side Story + transport	24th May	£55.00
Playhouse	Cooped - no transport	17th June	£17.00
Liverpool Empire	Les Misérables - no transport	17th Oct	£56.00
Empire Theatre	Glynbourne Company - Rigoletto	23rd Nov	tba

## The Struggle Goes On

One thing the U3A has given all of us is the chance to look at our own neck of the woods and the opportunity to discover treasures we had no idea were on our doorstep. Two of these turned up in April when the Day Trips group made their way to Manchester. The People's Museum is dedicated to the struggles of those that came before us. It is a reminder that all we have today was brought about through the devotion to freedom and parity that made our ancestors raise their banners and march towards right. We saw dedications to the Levellers, the Chartists, the suffragettes, the anti-slavery movement, the reform movement that led to the establishment of the parliament that we have today. We saw what they had achieved but in some ways also realised that our struggle still goes on. The posters on the walls are still valid today.

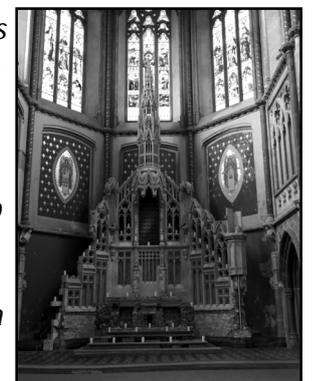


On the ground floor there was an exhibition dedicated to the Peterloo Massacre of August 16th 1819. Peaceful protestors were attacked by the 15th Hussars, sent in by local magistrates to arrest one man. Eighteen people were killed, trampled by horses or cut down by sabres and over seven hundred injured. Their protest fell on deaf ears, it achieved little but the tightening of the noose around the necks of the poor and the disenfranchised. The protests carried on, deportation to Australia become the norm but the human spirit is indefatigable. They helped make our lives better and although we know there is still much to be achieved at least we know soldiers won't mow us down when we protest peacefully in the centre of London.



We moved on to a Gothic masterpiece; Gorton Monastery and Friary. Built between 1863 and 1867 this imposing monastery was designed by Pugin; architect of the Houses of Parliament. This amazing building was the hub of Gorton but fell into disuse when the friars left. Vandals moved in and the decorative work, the altars, the painting were almost completely destroyed. In 2007 following funding from the Heritage Lottery Fund, English Heritage and European Funds this church; listed as one of the world's one hundred buildings worth keeping, re-opened its doors.

On entry to the church one was struck by the sheer size of the nave and chancel. The height was extraordinary and the restoration sympathetic in its attempt to repair but retain as much as was possible. The reredos was inspiring and the twelve saints (found in gardens and on web sites) that now rested on their original plinths looked down upon a transformed church. The pillars cleaned of their graffiti, the cloister walk re-plastered, the quiet garden restored, the subtle lightning enhancing the scene made the church a work of art in its own right. This was a treasure right on our doorstep, none of us knew about it but were very glad that Marj had found it for us.



Jane Jones

## U3A Welfare

Our U3A cares deeply about all its members but especially those who are poorly or going through a hard time.

If you know of any member who is ill, in need or could do with a friendly contact please inform Lill Boyle

(Welfare) on 526 4303

**'Knowing someone cares can make such a difference.'**