

# CROSBY & DISTRICT U3A

APRIL 2026 NEWSLETTER

WE MEET ON 2<sup>ND</sup>  
MONDAY OF THE  
MONTH – Excl. August

ST. HELEN'S CHURCH HALL,  
ALEXANDRA ROAD, CROSBY  
L23 7TQ

(Opposite Nat-West Bank and near  
various bus-stops.)

DOORS open at 1:45 pm.

MEETING starts at 2:00 pm.

TEA & BISCUITS to follow

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[www.crosby.u3asite.uk](http://www.crosby.u3asite.uk)

e: [crosbyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:crosbyu3a@gmail.com)

Facebook Group: Crosby u3a

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PRESIDENT: **David Atherton**

## YOUR 2025/26 COMMITTEE

**Anne Handley:** CHAIR,  
Programme Secretary, Web  
Manager

**Richard Hackford:** Vice-Chair,  
Newsletter Designer

**June Chetter:** Secretary

**Carole Firth:** Treasurer

**Irene Pepp:** Newsletter Editor

**Maggie Goodrum:** Groups

Co-ordinator

**Lesley Iwanejko:** Membership  
Secretary

## GUEST EDITORIAL – FROM THE CHAIR

### Come and see us on Crosby Market!

Following a request  
from your Committee,  
Crosby u3a has been  
awarded a u3a Grant  
for Recruitment and  
Community  
Engagement!

The project involves  
holding a stall on  
Crosby Market, on  
TUESDAY 14th and  
TUESDAY 21st April  
We will be there with  
our stall and new  
banner etc. from 9:00  
am. to 3:00 pm. (subject to the weather).



We hope that local people will come and chat to us about  
what goes on at Crosby u3a and the activities they can get  
involved in. There will be photos, posters, leaflets and  
FREE tea and coffee.

Current members are welcome to come along too, so why  
not drop by and help to make the stall look busy?

### **30<sup>th</sup> ANNIVERSARY PARTY - Mon. 8<sup>th</sup> JUNE**

REMEMBER: Please COLLECT your Invitation Forms at  
TODAY'S Meeting. (Bring these completed forms, with any  
dietary requirements, to our MAY Meeting, TOGETHER  
with £10 CASH for each Ticket required.)

VENUE: St Helen's Church Hall

TIME: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

EVENT: Buffet, entertainment, quizzes, prizes and fun!

## COMMUNITY NEWS

### FREE LOCAL HISTORY TALKS

**Sefton's Information Service Unit** provides FREE monthly talks on a wide variety of topics at *Crosby Library*. (These are held upstairs – lift available.)

Wed. 15<sup>th</sup> April at 2:00 pm.

**Susan Bennett:** *“Rest in Peace: the Body Snatchers”* – two sides of Victorian Britain's attitudes to death: mourning rituals and the sale of dead bodies to universities!

**N.B. Please reserve your free seat by contacting Crosby Library**

[information.services@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:information.services@sefton.gov.uk)

Tel: 0151 257 6401

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Crosby Library's Information Service offers a range of information sources including those for local and family history. Online services include free access to Academic Journals for research and Consumer Information. Genealogy resources include support with Find My Past with the 1921 census and the British Newspaper archive.

Contact Details: as above.

### WATERLOO COMMUNITY ASSCN.

*Singing for Lung Health* – 2<sup>nd</sup> & 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesdays: 1:45 – 2:45 pm

*For those with long-term lung conditions - sociable group activities where breath control and posture are aided by singing.*

**Waterloo Community Centre**, Great George's Road, Waterloo L22 1RD  
Near Waterloo Rail Station & South Road Bus Station. Parking available.

For details:- Isobel Jenkins 07876 755 633 OR

[Isobel.jch@gmail.com](mailto:Isobel.jch@gmail.com)

### THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER....

**APRIL 13<sup>th</sup> – BERNARD NEVIN: “Operation Fish”** – the story behind the rush to safeguard the UK's gold reserves from a potential Nazi invasion in 1939/1940.

### NEXT MONTH'S SPEAKER....

**MAY 11<sup>th</sup> - GILL RUSSELL: “Stranger in a Strange Land”**

### LUNCH CLUB – Next Date: Mon. 20<sup>th</sup> April. 12:15 pm.

LOCATION: *West Lancs. Golf Club* - Free Parking on site. The Golf Club is situated next to **Hall Road Train Station**.

*Further Details from Joan Sheerin – 0151 928 5383*

### THEATRE TRIP:

**The Little Theatre, Southport**

Friday 17<sup>th</sup> April at 7:30 pm. Tickets: £16

**“THE 39 STEPS”** – staged by Southport Dramatic Club

A fast-paced adaptation of *Alfred Hitchcock's* classic spy thriller.

TRAIN: All Stations to Southport

*Details: Lorna Rothwell – 07941 843 090*

### DAY TRIP – NEXT MONTH

**MEOLS HALL** – a rare chance to visit this delightful 12<sup>th</sup> Century House in Churchtown, Southport.

Mon. 25<sup>th</sup> May – TICKETS: £5 on the Door.

TRAVEL: The 12:37 TRAIN from Blundellsands (or Station of your choice) to SOUTHPORT and then No. 49 BUS from Lord Street to MEOLS HALL.

(N.B. Meols Hall is opposite the Botanic Gardens.)

CONTACT: **Lorna Rothwell** on 07941 843 090 to get your name on the list.

### WINE TASTING:

**FRIDAY 8<sup>TH</sup> MAY**

**from 7:00 – 9:00 pm.** at MARINE FOOTBALL CLUB  
Jane Clare will be hosting a private Wine-tasting session for Crosby u3a Members.

COST: £20, for Wine, Nibbles and Expertise.

PAYMENT: needed at APRIL'S Meeting.



## **COMMUNITY NEWS Contd.**

### CROSBY & DISTRICT HISTORY Soc.

Moor Lane Methodist Church Hall,  
Crosby L23 2UH – (Opposite the  
old Windmill.) Meets: 7:30 pm.

(Bus stop outside and free on-site  
parking.)

April 27<sup>th</sup> – David Hearn: *“Soldiers  
on the Streets & Warships in the  
Mersey.”*

May 11<sup>th</sup> – Spencer Leigh -  
*“Merseybeat Memories: a childhood  
in Crosby”*

For more information contact  
Bernard Nevin – 07534 685 774

(Apologies to all concerned for an  
incorrect phone no. last month.)

### **AT THE PLAZA CINEMA....**

#### FLICKS AND FRIENDS:

Monthly FREE film for over 60's  
provided by “Re-engage”.

Doors: 12:15 pm – FILM: 1:00 pm

*Taa and biscuits are served.*

FREE - but Donations Welcome

**Tues. 14 April: “Mother’s Pride”** – a  
British comedy-drama about a  
grieving family trying to save their  
failing pub. Starring Martin Clunes  
and Mark Addy

BOOKING ADVISED: 0151 474 4076

*(For those who love Crosby sandhills)*

**“The lark now leaves his wat’ry nest  
And, climbing, shakes his dewy wings;  
And to implore your sight, he sings.”**

**Sir William Davenant, 1606 – 1668**

(Adapted)

## **MEMORIES OF CROSBY U3A**

In the 30th Anniversary year of Crosby u3a, it’s good to  
look back on our time here.

What are the moments that stand out in your memory?  
Perhaps there was a particularly fun outing, or maybe you  
made new friends by joining one of the groups that shared  
your passion for books, art or gardening? Another person  
shares their memories here:

*“I joined Crosby u3a just before the pandemic. When  
lockdown was lifted and we were allowed to meet outside,  
I went to “Crossroads” every Tuesday morning for Coffee &  
Chat with other Members, in the courtyard in the sun.”*

**Anne**

**Please send *your* memories to [crosbyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:crosbyu3a@gmail.com) or  
tell them to a committee member at a meeting and we  
will print some of them in the next newsletter.**

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### *UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT....*

#### *GARDENING GROUP – led by JEAN ROSTRON*

The Crosby u3a Gardening group was amongst the first  
groups started 30 years ago and has been meeting  
fortnightly on a Friday almost without exception apart  
from when restrictions stopped us from meeting during  
Covid !!! Two of the members have been constant  
attendees since the first meeting. This must prove  
something about gardening – it can give you staying  
power!

We are a friendly group of 6 to 8 folk – the numbers  
restricted by the size of our living rooms but united by the  
love of gardens and nature. We are the carers of a wide  
variety of little suburban “Edens”, some small and neat  
others becoming too large for their owners to look after!  
Some of us have worked allotments in the past and love to  
grow vegetables and salad crops - nowadays, for some of  
us, sadly only in buckets and containers! We have a small  
number of other, extra members of the group (who have  
their own transport) who join us when we have “outside”  
visits to larger venues.

During the winter we meet to compare notes about the  
state of our gardens, the rain, the floods, the weather etc..  
Fortified with tea and ‘Tab Nabs’ we look forward to spring  
when the first shoots appear – excitingly passing on news  
by Whats App around the group regarding the snowdrops,  
daffodils, frog spawn and hedgehogs we have spotted.

*Contd. On Page 4*

## CROSBY U3A NEWS EXTRA!

### SEFTON PARTNERSHIP FOR OLDER CITIZENS - SPOC

Among the many organisations with the interests and needs of older people at their heart is the SEFTON PARTNERSHIP for OLDER PEOPLE.

Formed over 20 years ago, at one time this Partnership drew together ideas and opinions from six different Forums across Sefton. However, as with many other organisations, the pandemic had a major impact and meetings ceased.

Last month SEFTON CVS and SEFTON ADVOCACY gathered people together to resurrect SPOC. Some 18 people met in Southport Little Theatre – 50/50: older people and the various local agencies (strategic partners) that focus on older people.

Attendees held two Workshops to consider the “Barriers and Challenges” facing a renewed SPOC, and also possible “Ways Forward”.

Your Vice-Chair attended this Southport event, representing Crosby u3a, as he’d previously attended as a Maghull resident.

**Updates will follow in July.**

**PLEASE NOTE: Any Articles, News Items or Photos for the MAY issue to be submitted to the Editor ([crosbyu3a@gmail.com](mailto:crosbyu3a@gmail.com)) by Tuesday 21<sup>st</sup> APRIL.**

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0151 920 9998

email: [kie@thecopyspot.co.uk](mailto:kie@thecopyspot.co.uk)

*Contd. From Page 3:*

In the spring, summer and autumn, we are able to visit local gardens listed in the Yellow Book Open Gardens Scheme, when travel is possible and transport available. We have also visited, and supported, local parks and places of interest. In the past we have visited Southport Botanical Gardens, Ness Gardens and stately homes with beautiful grounds designed by famous garden designers. During our 30 years’ existence some of us have enjoyed Gardening holidays, cruises etc. Perhaps some of the younger members would like to arrange something on these lines for themselves?

We share our combined knowledge of gardening and tips, picked up over the years. We also share plants and seedlings which have been sown with gay abandon in spring-time only to be too many to fit in the space available. Plants which have outgrown our gardens now flourish in some of our local parks.

Friendships sown and nourished over years in the Gardening Group have helped many folk to ‘belong’ to the u3a and become part of the u3a and all it has to offer.

Group visit to RHS Bridgewater



Jean under a vine arch

In the MARCH Newsletter, the Editor set a Quiz Question about the name of the type of *font* used to sign off the Editorial. We were looking for the name of a famous, historical TV comedy series. The clues were: the lead actor in the TV series shares a surname with a building in Southport & his first name is also a tree. The Southport building was “the Atkinson” and the tree was a “Rowan”.

Rowan Atkinson starred in “*Blackadder*”.

**CONGRATULATIONS** to the Winner: *Kay Redmond!*