

CROSBY & DISTRICT U3A

JANUARY 2026 NEWSLETTER

HAPPY NEW YEAR!

WE MEET ON 2ND
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

www.crosby.u3asite.uk

email: crosbyu3a@gmail.com

Facebook Group: Crosby u3a

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

"It's that time of year.... for looking back on past achievements and planning for the year to come!

2025 was a year of big changes for Crosby u3a! A new committee, a new constitution, a new website and a new presence on social media! We have had over 50 people at most of our monthly meetings to hear some remarkable talks - from Seaforth to the Moon! And there have been some memorable outings and theatre visits. I particularly enjoyed our trip to Lytham Hall.

Building on all that, we hope that 2026 will be a year for new members and new groups (as well as continuing our traditions of good speakers and special events, like lunches and outings). The Family History group starts this month and other groups being considered include a Quiz, Board Games, Live music, and Beginner's French or Spanish.

The Recruitment Team is planning community events to attract more new members, who will have their own interests and be able to contribute to our increasing range of activities. Details of what is to come in 2026 can be found at the foot of page 4.

In this, our 30th year, I'd like to wish all our members a very Happy New Year!"

Anne



I am delighted to be joining the Crosby U3A Committee as Membership Secretary, having retired from lecturing at Liverpool University. My interests include music, reading and swimming. However, I am really happy to be reigniting my interests in embroidery and needle-work under

the expert guidance of fellow U3A members. *Lesley*

COMMUNITY NEWS

EVENTS AT THE PLAZA CINEMA

FREE "WARM SPACE":

The Plaza cinema will be hosting **monthly Warm Welcome Community Screenings**, with snacks, a hot drink and a film. Doors open at 1 pm and films start at 1:30 pm. Admission FREE. All local people are welcome.

3rd February: "Leap Year"

3rd March: "Mamma Mia!"

FLICKS AND FRIENDS:

This is a monthly FREE film at the Plaza Cinema for over 60's on Tuesdays at 1:00 pm., provided by "Re-engage". Doors Open at 12:15 pm for 1:00 pm start.

Tea and biscuits are served.

Tues Jan. 28th – "Fackam Hall"

Tues Feb. 25th - tba

Sat Jan. 17th - The Making of Once Upon A Time In Hollywood + Q&A and Book Launch - start 7:30 pm. NB: finish at 10:40 pm.

Thurs Jan. 22nd - The National Theatre: live performance of Hamlet - 7:00 pm

Pre-booking advised with Plaza

APOLOGIES:

Under last month's "Spotlight" article we published a composite image of the earth surrounded by discussion topics. Unfortunately, we forgot to state that we used this image under licence by the Creative Commons Attribution, and the image was created by "Vign yana".

THIS MONTH'S SPEAKER....

JAN. 12TH - Sgt. AMY PATTON: "SCAMS & SCAMMERS" - We need to ensure we don't become a victim.

NEXT MONTH'S EVENT....

FEB. 9TH - "Loctup" - a return of the popular singing Duo, Chris & Ian.

NEEDLEWORK GROUP

After all the hard work from members of the Needlework Group, sales of items at our November and December monthly meetings generated a total of £56.00 for the South Sefton Food Bank. Many thanks to those who helped to raise this sum for the benefit of those for whom Christmas is a time of added stress.

LUNCH CLUB - Christmas Lunch:

Joan's luncheon group held its Christmas Lunch at the West Lancs Golf Club on 15th Dec., with a record number of members attending – over 50! Some of the comments overheard were "the best *salmon en croute* I've ever eaten!", "the food was served so hot!", and "Joan Sheerin – what a star!". The golf club did us proud in every respect - the quality of the food, the setting (with splendid window decorations), the value and, of course, the service. The lunch group meets every third Monday. You won't get turkey or salmon every month but you will have good food and good company.

NEXT LUNCH DATE: Mon. 19th January, at 12:15 pm.

LOCATION: West Lancs. Golf Club (Free Parking on site; Golf Club is also next to Hall Road Train Station.)

Further details from Joan Sheerin (0151 928 5383).



"Christmas Lunch"

COMMUNITY NEWS Contd.

CROSBY & DISTRICT HISTORY Soc.

Moor Lane Methodist Church Hall, Crosby L23 2UH (opposite the old Windmill - onsite parking)

This usually meets on the 4th Monday of the month at 7:30 pm.

Mon. Jan. 26th – Well-known, local, social historian KEN PYE: *“Liverpool Murders & Misdemeanours?”*

Mon. Feb. 23rd – Postponed Talk by RACHEL RICK: *“The 250-year History of the Leeds and Liverpool Canal”* – the UK’s longest canal.

For more information contact Bernard Nevin – 07534 685 774

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.) 2:00pm – 3:15 pm.

January: Wed. 14th Dave Evans: *“Queue Up and Dance – Remembering Quadrant Park 1990-91”*.

Quadrant Park was the first legal, all-night rave in the country, based in Bootle from 1989-1991.

February: Wed. 11th Bernard Nevin: *“Brian Epstein & George Martin – the men who made the Beatles.”*

N.B. Please reserve your free seat by contacting Crosby Library
information.services@sefton.gov.uk
uk - tel: 0151 257 6401

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT... Play Reading Group

“We meet once a month on the third Monday at 10.30 am at my home. I usually obtain the plays from Liverpool Central Library as they have play sets (hopefully eight copies) and we can borrow them for a few months. I try to choose plays with a good number of characters so everyone can have a part.

We have been reading plays for ten years, with a variety of plays such as ‘An Inspector Calls’ and ‘The Mouse Trap’. Recently we have been given a couple of plays by a local playwright which have been very different - based on modern day life. In fact, one play won an award at the Liverpool Fringe Festival.

If you would like to join us, speak with any committee member or email us at crosbyu3a@gmail.com”

Lorna Rothwell



Play Reading Group Enjoying a Dramatic Moment

NETWORK MEETING for MERSEYSIDE U3A’s

Our Vice-Chair attended the end-of-year meeting of the Merseyside u3a Network, held at the Quaker Meeting House’s impressive premises in Liverpool.

Chaired by North-west u3a Council Rep: Gill Russell (Heswall u3a) there were reps. from Liverpool; Maghull & Lydiate; Orrel Park; Kirkby and Crosby. Topics included the relationship between the NW Council and the 3rd Age Trust; the North-west Region (some 97 u3a’s with over 42,000 members); the benefits of networking between various u3a’s; encouraging members’ pro-activity; enlivening committees; constitutions; community and national network links and the benefits of the Beacon support system.

COMMUNITY NEWS Contd.

UKRAINE WELCOME CENTRE:

Methodist Church, Mersey Road,
Blundellsands L23 3AE

A safe place for sponsors / hosts
and their Ukrainian guests

PLEASE NOTE: The charity shop
has now closed, but the Café is
still open until March. Mon-Sat
10-4. Sun 12-4.

TEA AND TUNES

This is a FREE monthly event held
at Crosby Library, featuring live
music and conversation, often as
part of a reminiscence session,
with Gordon.

No booking is required:
participants can just show up.

Friday, January 16th 2026,
from 11:00 am to 12:30 pm.

CROSSROADS CAFÉ:

Tuesdays from 10:45 am, some of
us meet at the Crossroads Café
(behind St. Luke's Church) for
tea/coffee and a chat. It's a good
chance to meet other members in
a social setting.

**"I value my garden more for
being full of blackbirds than of
cherries, and very frankly give
them fruit for their songs."**

Joseph Addison (1672-1719)

PLEASE NOTE: Any Articles, News
Items or Photos for the February
Newsletter, to be submitted to
crosbyu3a@gmail.com by Sunday
21st January.

NEW GROUPS

FAMILY HISTORY GROUP

The initial meeting is **Mon. 26 Jan. 2026 at 10:00 am.**

Meet at Crosby Library, with subsequent meetings on
the **4th Monday** of every month.

Maximum number is EIGHT, so please contact a
committee member OR crosbyu3a@gmail.com, if you
wish to attend this first meeting.

OTHER GROUPS that are being considered include: A
Quiz Group; Board Games Group; Live Music Group and
Conversational French/Spanish Group.

THEATRE TRIPS:

"Open All Hours" – beloved British sit-com,
immortalised by Ronnie Barker & David Jason (not
forgetting 'Nurse Gladys Emmanuel').

Thurs. 29th Jan. at 7:30 pm. TICKETS: £15.

"The Girl on the Train" – a tense thriller, based on the
bestselling novel by Paula Hawkins.

Thurs. 19th Feb. at 7:30 pm TICKETS: £15

Both plays are presented by Southport Dramatic Club
at the Little Theatre, Hoghton St, Southport PR9 0PA

For Further Details & Tickets, contact: **Lorna Rothwell**
at a u3a meeting or on 07994 184 3090.

Looking forward to 2026

We have an eclectic group of speakers booked to talk
in the first half of the year on Scams, Art, Operation
Fish, Japan and Nursery Rhymes! Details of dates and
times are in your Membership card. For later in the
year we are looking at possible talks on Genealogy,
Growing up in Bootle, and return visits by Captain
Derrick Kemp and John Coventry.

In June, instead of a speaker, there will be a lunchtime
party to celebrate Crosby u3a's 30th Anniversary.

There will be decorations, entertainment, good food,
prizes....

If you have ideas on how to make this event special,
please talk to a committee member or
email crosbyu3a@gmail.com



