

CROSBY & DISTRICT U3A

MARCH 2026 NEWSLETTER

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

e: 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 – VICE-CHAIR



Last month we were entertained by songs and banter from folk-duo “Loctup” and this month, we will enjoy Art-work by MARION SMITH – one of our own Members.

Our membership is steadily growing and, with two new groups this year (‘Family History’ and ‘Board Games’), Crosby u3a is growing! **Anne**, in her guise as Programme Secretary is already pulling together an excellent list

of speakers & events for 2026/27. Remember, if YOU have any suggestions, please pass them on to any Committee Member.

I have “signed off” this Guest Editorial with an unusual printers’ ‘font’. It was named after a popular TV comedy series. If any of you can identify the *name* of the Series, contact us by email (crosbyu3a@gmail.com) or speak to me at this month’s meeting. The first person with the correct answer – by email or in person – will receive a prize, i.e. one each. Too hard? Here’s a clue: the lead actor in the TV series shares a surname with a building in Southport & his first name is also a tree!

Richard

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED!

Crosby u3a is run entirely by volunteers - the committee, group coordinators, caterers, event organisers are all people giving up their time to help the u3a thrive – but we are always looking for more helpers. In July three of the Committee will be standing down, after the appropriate time in their respective roles. Being on the committee can be very rewarding, especially for anyone who wants to be active in shaping the future of Crosby u3a. Anyone who wants to find out what it’s like is very welcome to come and sit in on a meeting. It is particularly important that we appoint a new secretary.

COMMUNITY NEWS

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.)

Mar. 23rd - Molly Toal: *“The Lunt
Meadows Archaeological Dig”*

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

For more information contact
Bernard Nevin – 07534 685 775

WATERLOO COMMUNITY ASSCN.

Singing for Lung Health – 2nd & 4th
Wednesdays: 1:45 – 2:45 pm

*Aimed at those with long-term lung
conditions, these are 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, please contact:- Isobel
Jenkins 07876 755 633 OR

Isobel.jch@gmail.com

“OPERA VIVA”

*Opera Through The Ages – from
Mozart to the Modern Era*

Sat. 28th Mar. at 7:30 pm. - £10

St. Nicholas’ Church Hall,
Blundellsands. Bus Stop 50 mtrs &
Trains 5 mins. walk.

DETAILS: 0151 558 1552

**“I am willing to taste any drink
once.” James Cabell, 1879 – 1958**

THIS MONTH’S EVENT....

MAR. 9th - MARION SMITH: “SLIDE SHOW OF ARTWORK”
– one of our own Members exhibits her artist talent.

NEXT MONTH’S SPEAKER....

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

30th ANNIVERSARY PARTY - Mon. 8th JUNE

REMINDER: St Helen’s Church Hall from 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm
Buffet, entertainment, quizzes and prizes etc. Payment and
dietary requirements will be taken at the **May meeting**.
(Collect forms at our **APRIL** meeting). Tickets: £10 each.

THEATRE TRIP:

“The Gondoliers” – Enjoy a touch of Venice with this joyful
Operetta presented by Crosby Gilbert & Sullivan Society.

The Little Theatre, Southport

Thurs. 26th Mar. at 7:30 pm. Tickets: £16

TRAIN: All Stations to Southport

Details: Lorna Rothwell – 07941 843 090

LUNCH CLUB – Next Date: Mon. 16th Mar. 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 Sheeran – 0151 928 5383

DAY TRIP – Advance Notice:

MEOLS HALL – a rare chance to visit this delightful 12th
Century House in Churchtown, Southport.

Mon. 25th May - *Full details to follow in April’s Newsletter*



WINE TASTING: Some
Members have expressed
an interest in wine
enthusiast Jane Clare’s
offer to host a Wine-tasting
session for us. Details of
Date, Time, Location and
Cost for Wine, Nibbles and
Expertise will be in the
APRIL Newsletter.

COMMUNITY NEWS Contd.

MAYOR OF SEFTON'S CHARITY FUND – GALA BALL

(Hosted at Formby Hall Golf Resort & Spa, Southport Old Road, Formby, L37 0AB)

Welcome Drink – 3 Course Dinner – Guest Comper (Tony Ravel) PLUS 3-piece Group - “Soul Jam”

Sat. 14th March: 6:00pm for 6:30pm

Tickets: £50 – from: 0151 934 2062

Raising funds for: Plaza Cinema, Sefton Children's Trust, St. Joseph's Hospice & SWACA

EVENTS AT THE PLAZA CINEMA

FREE “WARM SPACE”

The Plaza Cinema will be hosting the final session of its “Warm Welcome” Screenings, with snacks, a hot drink and a film.

Doors: 1:00 pm – FILM: 1:30 pm

All Welcome - Admission FREE.

Tues. 17th March: Mamma Mia

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. 10 Mar “H' Is For Hawk” – the Best-selling Memoir starring Claire Foy & Brendan Gleeson

LIVE SHAKESPEARE ON SCREEN:

“OTHELLO” filmed at the Theatre Royal, Haymarket, London.

Tues. 10th March @ 7:00 pm.

Sun. 15th March @ 2:00 pm.

BOOKING ADVISED: 0151 474 4076

AN INTERVIEW with a u3a Group Leader – Lorna

Rothwell

Lorna shares her experiences, motivations and insights gained from leading various Groups and ensuring the success of Crosby & District u3a over the years.

What inspired you to become a group leader?

I was inspired to set up a play reading group after a Northwest u3a networking event about 15 years ago. I also lead the theatre group, which has been going about 12 years. I also lead one of the reading groups which I took over when the original group leader left.

What do you get out of being a group leader?

I love going to the Central Library to choose the plays for the play reading group. I find it interesting to try and find plays that have enough parts so that all the group members have interesting roles to read. Leading the group has led to a friendship with a local playwright. We now enjoy reading some of his plays that are about Liverpool life and are plays we might never have otherwise considered reading. It is a great social activity, and we enjoy reading but also having a laugh.

For the theatre group it means I can choose the events I want to attend and go with a group of like-minded people who may not otherwise go to the theatre. We go to the Little theatre in Southport as that is accessible and easy to get to on public transport.

What does the role require?

It is not an onerous role. I need to message group members and remind them of dates and times. For the play reading group, it is held at my home, so I buy tea and biscuits. On the day I need to remind everyone where we are up to in the play; I tend to remind myself a little in advance of each meeting. I collect the plays from the library but with the local writer he can send me the scripts electronically.

For the theatre group I just book the tickets and members make their own travel arrangements. Although, in the past I have also organised a minibus for day trips. Again, that does not take up much time or effort.

Would you recommend the group leader role to others?

Yes, I would recommend the role. It means you can continue enjoying your interests with fellow enthusiasts. I would be happy to support someone thinking of starting a new group. For example, if someone wanted to organise outings, I would be happy to share my own experiences.

MORE EVENTS AT THE PLAZA

“EPIC! Elvis Presley In Concert”

Long-lost footage from Elvis Presely’s Las Vegas 1970’s residency with rare footage from Elvis on Tour, and from the Graceland archive, plus recordings of Elvis telling “his side of the story”.

Tues. 10th March: 5:20 pm

Wed. 11th March: 5:20 & 7:30 pm

Thurs. 12th March: 5:20 pm

“James Acaster: Cinemagoers Welcome”

One of the UK's most exciting and loved comedians, this features three shows from his “Heckler's Welcome” tour.

Sat. 14th March: 7:30 pm - £12.00

BOOKING ADVISED FOR BOTH THESE EVENTS: 0151 474 4076

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. 11th Mar at 2:00 pm.

John Coventry: “*The Pendle Witches - 1612*” – this presentation tells their story and examines the case in exquisite detail.

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

information.services@sefton.gov.uk

Tel: 0151 257 6401

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0151 920 9998

email: kie@thecopyspot.co.uk

UNDER THE SPOTLIGHT....

I.T. GROUP – led by ANNE HANDLEY

This is not a group for tech enthusiasts who are keen to learn about the latest software! It’s more of a friendly group, learning from each other about how to get the best out of our phones, tablets and - occasionally - laptops. Even those who have never used IT at work and have never been taught how to download apps still need to be able to communicate with our friends and family, search the Internet safely and explore what else we can do with our phones. We can use them as a diary, camera, clock, torch or as an encyclopaedia. We can read the news, play games, or identify plants, birds, aeroplanes or ships!

Our meetings are held in the coordinator's own home. They usually start with watching a YouTube video on a topic such as WhatsApp, Zoom, Scams etc. followed by a discussion on that topic and then trying it out in practice. After refreshments, we tackle problems that people have been having - either by resolving them among ourselves or by asking Google.

If you would like to join us, contact a Committee Member or crosbyu3a@gmail.com

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? One person has already shared their memories here. Please send *your* memories to crosbyu3a@gmail.com or tell them to a committee member at a meeting and we will print some of them in the next newsletter.

“One of my favourite outings with Crosby u3a was a day out to Blackpool Tower. We went to enjoy the ballroom, dancing and afternoon tea. It was a memorable experience and I think it was in 2024.”

Maggie

PLEASE NOTE: Any Articles, News Items or Photos for the APRIL issue to be submitted to the Editor (crosbyu3a@gmail.com) by Saturday 21st March.