u3aNorthwich Newsletter

OCTOBER 2026 https://northwich.u3asite.uk

MONTHLY MEETING – SEPTEMBER 2026 'THESE ISLES'

Our speaker this month was Brian Groom, a retired journalist/author, who whirled us through 900,000 years of British history in one hour! 'These Isles' was the title of the presentation and of one of his books which is, a People's History of England, Ireland, Scotland and Wales.

Brian began by stating that many factors have shaped and reshaped our lands over time which for the most part involve people. There was a very brief section involving some geological facts, the arrival of humans, the 350 years of Roman occupation and then information regarding the Anglo Saxons and the Vikings.

Christianity was, Brian pointed out, of worldwide significance. He talked about St. Patrick, a fifth-century Christian missionary and bishop in Ireland. He was known as the 'Apostle of Ireland'. When he was sixteen, he was captured by Irish pirates from his home in Britain and taken as a slave to Ireland. He lived there for six years as a herder, before escaping and returning to his family. After studying for many years, he returned to spread Christianity in Ireland.

Monarchs played a part in the presentation and Brian talked about Gruffudd, the first King of Wales, Macbeth, possibly the grandson of Malcolm of Scotland, Edward I (also known as 'Longshanks'), Henry VIII, Elizabeth I, Mary, Queen of Scots, James VI of Scotland, I of England and James II.

Other historical figures also featured in his talk: William Wallace, Robert the Bruce, Oliver Cromwell, Charles Stewart Parnell, Margaret Thatcher, Mary Robinson, Nicola Sturgeon and several other politicians.

Topics touched upon included the first Archbishop of Canterbury, the Reformation, the Gunpowder Plot, the British Empire, the Jacobite rebellions, Methodism, the Industrial Revolution, shipbuilding, the Great Famine of 1845, the Napoleonic Wars, popular culture, the Irish Free State, the Great Depression and the 2 World Wars.

This was a whistlestop tour through history and Brian even managed to include some local Northwich facts throughout. It was interesting to hear him read from his books and members very much enjoyed the presentation.

NEXT MEETING

Come and join us for the meeting on Wednesday 21st October, 2pm at Owley Wood Recreation Club, Weaverham. This will be our AGM followed by 'More Songs and Humour' from Rob Mason, who is returning by popular request following his entertaining session last year

Northwich u3a information

Reports of monthly meetings and information of upcoming events and activity groups can be found on our website - https://www.northwich.u3asite.uk

COMMITTEE NEWS

Message from Alsager and District u3a

Greetings from Alsager & District U3A...
As part of the Alsager & District U3A we have an Orchestra Group: the Alsager Light Orchestra.

We are always interested to hear from new members who have a
good musical skill base and who miss being part of a productive orchestra.
We play mostly light music from films and shows, working
towards concert level. We have vacancies but are particularly looking for violin players.
You will be expected to bring your own instrument and a
music stand.

If you are interested, please look at our web site: https://alsagerlightorchestra.co.uk/
Details are there but, in a nutshell, we meet on a Tuesday 2 -
4pm at the Social Club in Alsager: Longview Avenue, Alsager, ST7 2EA

Please let us know if you are interested.
Contact@alsagerlightorchestra.co.uk
Looking forward to seeing you...

Xmas Lunch

Please find below a reminder about the arrangements for the Xmas Lunch, about which you have received an email from Marian Atkinson:-

The Christmas Lunch takes place at Vale Royal Abbey, Whitegate on Wednesday, 16th December 12.30 for 1pm. The cost for tickets this year is £30.00 pp

Tickets will be on sale at the monthly Wednesday meeting in October. Payment by cash, cheque, or card is available.
Please have your menu choices ready when you pay, if you have dietary requirements, please let the committee member issuing your ticket know.
PLEASE NOTE : The venue has requested that you do not arrive before 12.20 to facilitate the setting up of the tables etc.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

Starters

Soup: Leek & potato (V/VE/GF)
Chicken Liver Parfait: Whipped chicken liver parfait with red onion chutney, toasted brioche

Main Courses

Traditional Roast Turkey: Roast potatoes, honey-roasted parsnips, creamed sprouts, roasted carrots, cranberry stuffing, pigs in blankets and gravy
Roasted Pork Loin: Creamed black pudding potato, honey-roasted carrots, braised cabbage and cider jus
Wellington: Roasted butternut squash Wellington with spinach, pomme mousseline, and kale
ADDITIONAL BOWLS OF VEGETABLES

Desserts

Christmas Pudding : winter berry compote and Cointreau orange sauce (V/VE/GF)
White Chocolate and Baileys Cheesecake: cookies and cream ice cream
Cheese and Biscuits : available with a £4.00 supplement
Tea, coffee and petit mince pies

Group News

Theatre Trips

There remain tickets for the trip to the Crewe Lyceum on 9th January to see Sing the Musicals. Tickets/Information from Janice Jackson

Walking Group 6

Walkers from Walking Group 6, alongside their dogs, tackled a 2 hour long circular walk along the River Weaver from the Leigh Arms. Photos below, were taken by David Arcus.







Photography Group

The topic for September was Still Life Photography led by group member Doug. Photos are shown below.

At the previous meeting Steve talked about flower photography, and members shared their pictures.

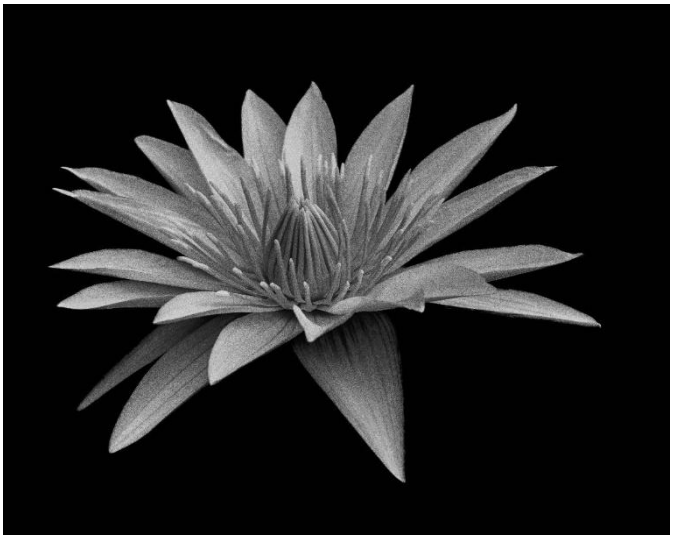












A big thank you to all group members for sharing such amazing photos.