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Get **more** out of life and meet **new** friends

3Ls aims to provide opportunities for **Leisure, Laughter & Learning**

Wirral 3Ls is a not-for-profit charity which provides daytime courses and social activities for the mainly over-50s, but all adults are welcome.

[Find out more](#)



From the editor: It's here! After many months of endeavour by trustees, staff and volunteers, together with our partners Ambos, the new 3Ls website is live. You now are able to pay your membership, and book courses and events from the comfort of your own armchair, with no need to visit the Office to do so - though if you do like to come and visit us we will be very pleased to see you.

In this online only edition of *Kaleidoscope* you will find a report of the recent AGM, news about past and forthcoming events, how students of German were able to practise their skills in Berlin, a quiz, poems, art work and much more.

Finally on the last page there is an announcement about *Kaleidoscope* itself.

Tim Parrott, editor.

Annual General Meeting

The Annual General Meeting of Wirral 3Ls took place on 4th June 2026 at Bebington Civic Centre.

The Chair John Oxton reported that it had been a busy and successful year for the 3Ls and thanked volunteers and staff for their work in the past 12 months. He highlighted the major change at the end of June, when the new website will go live. This will allow online booking for courses and events, though members may still enrol in the office as previously if they wish.

The Treasurer Carol Hart reported that the 3Ls has a sound financial base with a surplus for the year 2025/26, thanks to increased membership and numbers of courses offered, as well as other factors

Current membership figures stand at just under 1000. Several new courses are planned for autumn, bringing the total number to over 70.

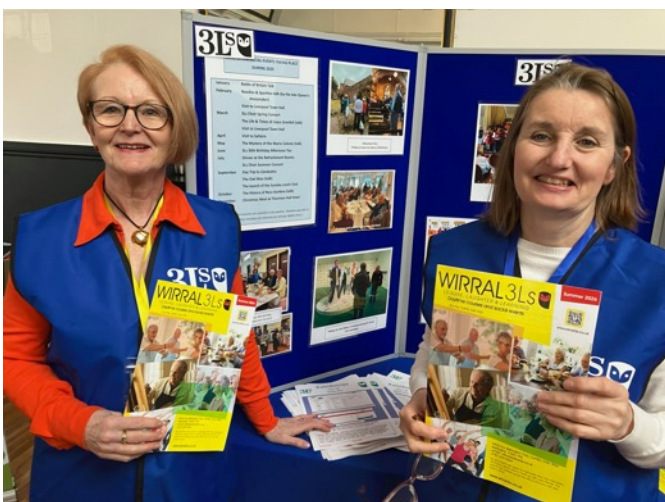
Christine Cowley and David Jones were appointed as Trustees, and Gillian Bolt was reappointed. The death of former Trustee and tutor Chris Scudamore was marked.

After the formal business an open forum took place, at which various topics were raised, including course availability, the new website, successful events (thanks to Adele), and Kaleidoscope.

After the meeting Gillian Bolt gave a well received talk on Wirral Conservation Areas.

If you would like to see the full minutes of the AGM please ask in the Office.

Marketing Team Promote Wirral 3Ls



The marketing team with others have taken the Wirral 3Ls message to a number of locations recently, including the Wirral History and Heritage Fair, and the Friends Of Storeton Woods Open Day.

Left: Carol and history tutor Heather at the Wirral History Fair.



Volunteer for Wirral 3Ls!



Your organisation is a charity which receives no external funding but relies upon volunteers to help run its various activities.

We need a few more volunteers who are comfortable using a keyboard to help in the office now the new computerised booking system has gone live, and also with other administrative duties.

If you would like to join our team, please call in the office to talk to David.

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NATIONAL VOLUNTEERS WEEK

National Volunteers Week was launched in 1984, an initiative that's been running now for over 40 years. Volunteering is a vital component of UK society, with millions contributing their time and skills.

This month saw National Volunteers Week (June 1st – 7th) so with that in mind I feel it appropriate that a massive thank you goes out to all our volunteers who so generously give their time and expertise to support the running of 3Ls. Without you 3Ls wouldn't exist, so again thank you.

A huge thank you also goes out to you, all our members, who continue to support this wonderful organisation.

Adele Maddox – social events coordinator, trustee and volunteer.

A Kaleidoscopic Quiz

(by Quizmaster Andy Green)

Quote Unquote

Who uttered these famous quotes?
For a bit of extra fun, try and guess the year.

1. We shall fight them on the beaches We will never surrender.

2. Any customer can have any colour that he wants so long as it is black.



3. Some people are on the pitch, they think it's all over, it is now!

4. Ich bin ein Berliner



5. Ping-pong was invented on the dining tables of England in the 19th century, and it was called Wiff-waff!

6. Education, education, education.

7. If God had wanted us to play football in the clouds, he'd have put grass up there.

8. I think, therefore I am.

9. Because people have got to know whether or not their president is a crook. Well, I am not a crook

10. Eureka!



Answers

1. Winston Churchill 1940; 2. Henry Ford 1922; 3. Kenneth Wolstenholme 1966; 4. John F Kennedy 1963; 5. Boris Johnson 2008; 6. Tony Blair 1996; 7. Brian Clough - date unknown; 8. René Descartes 1637; 9. Richard Nixon 1973; 10 Archimedes circa 250 BC.

Wirral 3Ls German Students go to Berlin!

Mid-April saw a group of seven 3L's members, from Christine Barry's group, furthering our German language studies by jetting off to spend a 5-day break in Germany's capital city, thus immersing ourselves in the language, culture and hospitality of this vibrant metropolis.

We booked a hotel in Potsdamer Platz, thereby ensuring easy access to the major tourist sites. During our stay, we had a tour of the Reichstag, Germany's parliament building. We also visited the Brandenburg gate



In front of the Brandenburg Gate

and a host of other museums and sites of interest. These included the Holocaust Memorial and Museum, the Deutsche Museum, the DDR Museum and the Espionage Museum, amongst many other places of interest.

During the day, some of the group took boat trips up the River Spree whilst others visited Museuminsel, which is a UNESCO world heritage site. Others visited the Humboldt Forum, which included a number of other museums and art galleries. However, in the evenings we always convened in a local hostelry to share our stories and sample the delights of the Deutsche food and drink.

For those interested in more recent political history and the subsequent Cold War, two of the more fascinating trips were the Berliner Unterwelten e.V. tour and the Stasi Museum. These are a must.

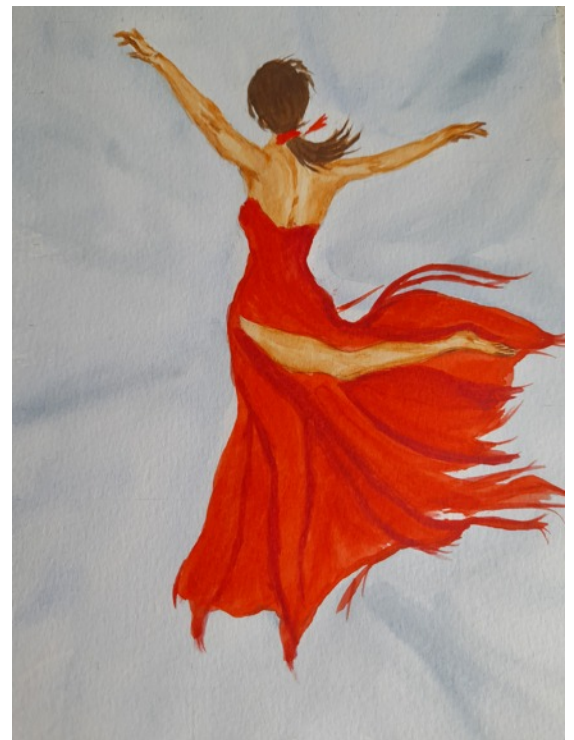
Es war ausgezeichnet!

Nick Byrne

Gallery



Flyover - Tim Martineau



Untitled - Ann Bell



Be Wild - Judith Railton

Gallery



Albert Dock by Night - Andy Green



Dung Fly - Richard Bradford

Events

3 July 11.00 *Guided Walk in Liverpool's Chinatown*

Learn about the history of Europe's oldest Chinatown.

Meet at St Luke's Church. (the "bombed out" church)

24 July 2.00 *The History of Oriental Dance*

A Talk by Fatma, in the Civic Centre.

9 September 9.00 departure Black Country Museum

A coach trip to visit this fascinating museum of industrial history.

For more information and costs of all the above see the Events section of the website or call in the Office.

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Christmas Lunch at Thornton Hall

WIRRAL 3Ls CHOIR



The Wirral 3Ls Choir Spring Concert at the Lighthouse Church

Forthcoming Concerts

Friday 3 July Williamson Art Gallery 6.30 p.m
(Bucket collection for Wirral Women and Children's Aid)

Wednesday 8 July Summer Concert Lighthouse Church 10.45 a.m.
(Tickets £6.00 from 3Ls Office or Choir members)

Winter Days

It's winter, the season of uncertainty and tests.
Tumbling, biting temperatures trigger protests.
Rain, sleet, snow, fog, mist, drizzle, who knows?
Twigs buffeted in gusts of endless to's and fro's.
Gale driven ripples on opaque puddles.
People sheltering in close-knit huddles.
Umbrellas are examined and fail miserably.
We need much bigger ones; considerably.
Nests silhouetted within leafless tributaries.
Thin clothes and no gloves are adversaries.
Lampposts cast undulating circles of light.
For anyone foolish enough to be out tonight.
Heartless winds reach through our clothes.
Turning us frosty from our head to our toes.
Damp trouser bottoms and soggy laces.
A blueish tinge from the cold on our faces.
Stay at home on these cold winter days.
Wait for the sun to unfurl it's warm rays.

Eric Craven



The Back to Front Holiday

(or Margaret Elston goes to Spain)

For starters the hotel had obviously begun life facing the gracious curved street running alongside a narrow linear park. Clues lay in the elegant colonnade, the fancy stonework around the windows and a grand entrance. But now guests accessed the building off a narrow Avenida lined with small businesses and a junior school. Next to the cramped lobby was the dark and gloomy hotel bar. My overall impression was one of seediness.

Then there was the firework display - in the middle of the day if you please! Towards the closing days of our trip the town embarked on its fiesta. On departure day, when we repaired to our favourite cafe round the corner the place was full of firemen lunching. There in the street alongside the park was the fire tender, doors and lockers wide open. Imagine leaving an appliance like that back home - you'd be lucky to find the vehicle still parked never mind it's contents!

Before we finished eating the fire crew vanished into the park. A few moments later all the local collared doves took flight as a tremendous explosion rent the heavens. The lights of the rockets could barely be discerned against the brilliant blue skies. I'm convinced it was the noise they were after, not the pretty lights.

It was the same with the parade that mustered one late evening in the Avenida just above our hotel. Huge amplifiers with thick black cables commandeered the pavements and parking was suspended. Well it was not marching bands as we understand, just a discordant blaring, banging and shouting aimed at making as much racket as possible. By the time we arose next morning the amplifiers had gone and the taxis got their rank back.

In our hotel the native population outnumbered foreign tourists - and how they loved chocolate sauce. It sat in vats in both dining rooms- turn the tap and out it oozed. Small wonder there was so much obesity and dentists on practically every street corner. Just as well many of the lifts had been deactivated deliberately. Tramping the stairs was good exercise.

I loved the old town with its narrow alleyways and little squares carefully provided with plants and seating. We'd buy our picnic ingredients in the municipal market and eat our lunch in these squares. But also I admired the tower blocks, each carefully juxtaposed with its neighbours so the original buildings didn't lose their views. So many wonderful designs and each with its own gardens. How anything grew in that crumpled concrete that passed for soil I don't know but plants flourished

And finally there was the wool shop. Walk down the side of the school, turn the corner and there it was. My friend spotted it, noticing a street lamp wrapped in knitting. And they sold wool- authentic Portuguese merino wool. It wasn't quite on a par with finding a unicorn but it came pretty close - one of the highlights of our back to front trip.

Kaleidoscope - New Editor wanted!

After 13 years and nearly 40 issues I have decided to hang up my keyboard, so Wirral 3Ls needs a new editor for its members' magazine. *Kaleidoscope* is published once each term, usually in print and online versions. The role of the editor is both to gather contributions from 3Ls members and to write some themselves. The task then is to organise the content in a form suitable for publication, normally using simple desktop publishing software, or perhaps Microsoft Word.

Interested and want to know more? I would be happy to discuss in more detail what is involved - you can contact me via the Office or at:

kaleidoscope@wirral3Ls.co.uk

Tim Parrott - editor (for now)

[illegible]

SIGN UP NOW FOR NEXT TERM!

**Please try our new website and sign up online from 29 June at
www.wirral3ls.co.uk**

We think you'll find it quite straightforward. If you're unsure about using the internet, you might like to ask a friend or family member to enrol on your behalf? However, you can, if you wish, enrol in the office as usual, but there may be more queuing than normal this first time round to get everyone set up on the new system.

Course enrolments on a first come, first served, basis, and there is no priority for current members, or for students currently on a particular course to continue with that course. New members may also sign up from 29 June. Please note places cannot be reserved without payment, though you can join a waiting list if a course is full. We are unable to make reductions to allow for members' absences.

Term starts	21 September 2026
Term ends	11 December 2026
Half Term	26 October - 6 November