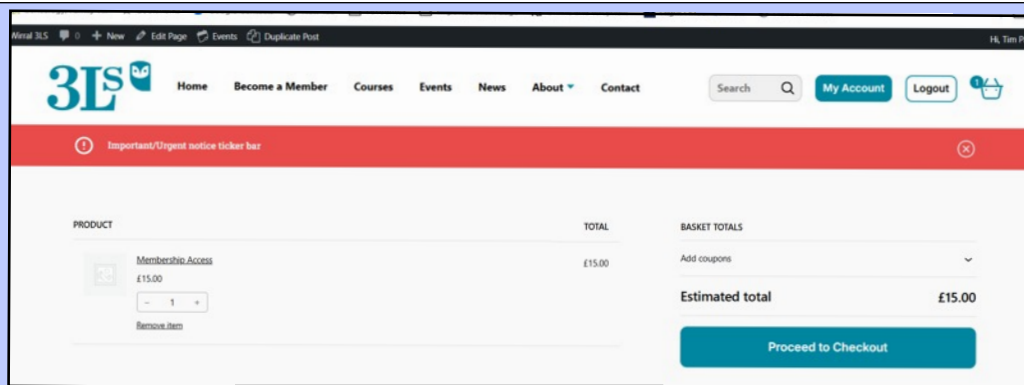


Choose a course from a list showing number of places available.



Pay for membership

*Draft sample screenshots from the new 3Ls website  
NB - the final version may look different!*

**From the editor:** Welcome to the expanded online Spring edition of Kaleidoscope. In this issue you will find news from the Trustees, reports of recent social events and choir concerts, plus visits by history students to local sites, and examples of members' art work. How streetwise are you? Try Andy Green's quiz to find out.

**NB The Date of the AGM is 4 June, not 23 April as in printed edition.** Tim Parrott

**PS - Apologies for the poor printing quality of printed edition!**



## **SOCIAL EVENTS**

### **HAPPY 2026 TO YOU ALL**

As we progress into the new year, many of us are looking forward to the arrival of drier, warmer, and sunnier days.

Meanwhile, I have been working hard to arrange a variety of engaging speakers for our monthly talks. Tina Saunders from Needles and Sparkle is coming back to give a different talk, this time to focus on her work in the Royal Household. Also coming up we have Tales from a Wing Walker, by Roger Devonshire. I've spoken with him at length, and he's very interesting—worth checking out. Plenty of other talks coming up so I hope there's something that's of interest to you. I'm optimistic about favourable weather conditions for the day aboard the Waverley Paddle Steamer. Further details to follow.

A trip to the Black Country Living Museum is planned later in the year so keep an eye out for that one, should be a great day out. Our Sunday Lunch club has become very popular, so if you haven't joined us yet, we'd love to have you—everyone is very friendly - honest!

See below for future events, and keep an eye on the website and notice boards which are continually being updated. Hope to see you at one of the events.!

*Adele – social events coordinator*

### **FORTHCOMING EVENTS**

29 March *Sunday Lunch Club* at the Three Stags in Bebington

17 April *Tales From a Wing Walker* 2.00 pm, Bebington Suite

15 May *Needles and Sparkles - 2* 2.00 pm, Bebington Suite

22 June *The Waverley* - Take a trip on the last sea going paddle steamer!

*For more details on these and other events see the website or notice board.*

## **Wirral 3Is at the History and Heritage Fair!**

Hulme Hall Port Sunlight

Saturday 21 March 10.00 - 6.00

## ***Wirral 3Ls Choir***

The Wirral 3Ls choir goes from strength to strength with more new members since September bringing the total number to 69, with on average around 60 attending each week. The standard of singing is developing all the time, with significant improvement in the men's section and the altos - thanks are due to Joce who works with the alto section for 20 minutes before choir begins while I'm working with the men's section. Alison and Margaret also provide invaluable admin support. The Choir runs on goodwill and support from its members, from chairs being set up, emails sent, end of term lunches arranged, to support and care for some vulnerable members of the choir.

Autumn term saw four performances- a Friday evening informal concert at Williamson Art Gallery in November, a Christmas entertainment for visitors to Ness Gardens, our main sell-out concert at the Lighthouse Church in Heswall, and at Christchurch Port Sunlight for the Wirral University Teaching Hospital (WUTH) annual carol service, again to a packed church.

In addition to almost £1000 raised in ticket money the proceeds of the raffle at the Lighthouse and a bucket collection at the Williamson raised nearly £1000 for Wirral Women and Children's Rescue Charity. £742 was raised at the WUTH event for the WUTH Charity. At these concerts, 3Ls is always promoted' and awareness of 3Ls raised in different parts of the Wirral and into Cheshire.

*Stella McGann*

### ***Next Concert***

**Wednesday 25th March, 10.15-11.30 a.m.**

**The Lighthouse Church. Telegraph Road, Heswall.**

**Tickets only £6.00 from the 3Ls office or choir members.**

**Refreshments and Raffle!**

***All welcome!***

# **HISTORY NOTES**

## **House History**

The new House History course saw learners visit Wirral Archives to explore the different types of record that can be found to help in their research. We looked at maps, planning applications for alterations and local historical publications. The houses being researched include a 19th century farmhouse, Victorian townhouse, Edwardian terrace and 1930s semi detached houses. The course continues next term and new learners are extremely welcome'.



*Students viewing the archives.*

*Heather Butler*

## **Birkenhead Priory**



*Stained glass window in Chapter House, by Ninian Comper*

On a cold and windy day in February, with rain threatening, a group from Wirral 3Ls' studying with Heather Butler on the Landscape History course paid a visit to Birkenhead Priory. The group was given an interesting tour by guide Samantha outlining the history of the site and how, against the odds, so much of the original building has survived. The various, relatively modern, stained glass windows in the Chapter House also proved to be particularly interesting.

*Kay Parrott*

# Art Gallery



*Flamingo by Ann Bell*



*Dottie by Ann Bell*



*Horse and rider at sunset by Robin Jones*

## Brackenwood , by Judith Railton



Here's my celebration of one of Wirral's public parks - Brackenwood in Higher Bebington. Opened almost a hundred years ago, once grounds of the long-demolished Brackenwood House, built for a Victorian chemical magnate, and designed by his brother-in-law Sir Aston Webb, a prominent architect of the era. The park has grassy slopes, woodland, remnants of flowering shrubs and interesting trees from its stately home times, with a public footpath running through it. The Lower Lodge remains as a private residence and the stable block has been home to Brackenwood Golf Club for many years, although the golf course (now closed) is a separate entity.



Spotted in the garden! By Ann Hinde

# A Kaleidoscopic Quiz

(by Quizmaster Andy Green)

## On the road again...but which one?

1. Which street in St John's Wood is the home of a famous Recording Studio?
2. The road linking Edinburgh Castle and Holyrood House is known as .....



3. Which Roman Road linked Exeter with Lincoln?

4. The 2,448-mile historic highway stretching from Chicago to Santa Monica, California - Get your Kicks on .....

5. Which major trunk road links London with Holyhead?

6. Lombard Street is the "crookedest street in the World", found in which American city?



7. Which tree lined avenue in Paris leads to the Arc de Triomphe?

8. What road is the second most valuable property on a Monopoly Board?



9. What is the name of the network of Asian trade routes active from the second century BC until the mid-15th century linking China with Southern Europe?

10. New York's principal and most luxurious shopping street is .....

*Answers below*

Answers : 1. Abbey Road; 2. The Royal Mile; 3. Fosse Way; 4. Route 66; 5. The A5; 6. San Francisco; 7. Les Champs-Élysées; 8. Park Lane; 9. The Silk Road; 10. 5th Avenue.





# 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 now need a few more volunteers with keyboard skills to help in the office when the new computerised booking system goes live this year, and also with other administrative duties.

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

~~~~~



## Annual Quiz

The annual 3Ls s Quiz took place at the Lever Ciub in November, with about sixty 3Ls members answering (on not) a range of fiendish questions from quizmaster Andy Green, with the eventual winners being team *Pardon My French*.

*The Winning Team*

## **SIGN UP NOW FOR NEXT TERM!**

Class lists open for enrolments for **members only** on **16 March 2026**. **Any current 3Ls member** can enrol on **any course** on a first come, first served, basis, and **there is no priority** for members currently on a particular course to continue with that course. New members may sign up from **7 April 2026**. Please note places cannot be reserved without payment, and we are unable to make reductions to allow for members' absences.

|                    |                        |
|--------------------|------------------------|
| <b>Term starts</b> | <b>27 April 2026</b>   |
| <b>Term ends</b>   | <b>17 July 2026</b>    |
| <b>Half Term</b>   | <b>25 May - 5 June</b> |