Mawdesley and Neighbouring Villages u3a

30th October 2026

FROM THE HISTORY GROUP

Halloween

Halloween is nearly here!

If you're someone who trills your eyes at that prospect, we don't blame you. Especially fans a British perspective, it's easy to see the holiday as an increasingly commercialised American import, becoming further detached from its traditions and origins with each passing year. But in fact, the history of Halloween is a fascinating one, with roots in the historical roots of Halloween, which are wonderfully complex and multilayered, and tell us much about the societies that celebrated it in the past.

Take Samhain, the ancient Gaelic festival marking the beginning of winter, celebrated in Ireland and other parts of the Celtic world. It was associated with the changing seasons and marked the moment when the boundary between the worlds of the living and the dead was at its thinnest, allowing spirits to pass between the two realms more easily than they can till Twain. Thus, with the evening before All Saints' becoming known as All Hallows' Eve, and then Halloween. Samhain was also celebrated with bonfires and with other seasonal customs, although the precise relationship between them remains a matter of debate.

Cameron Jones, in Victorian Britain, you find an tradition such as 'Mischief Night, when young people played tricks on their neighbours, alongside customs involving divination and the telling of ghost stories. Many of these customs, as well as the idea of the European migrants, particularly those from Ireland and Scotland, where they evolved into the Halloween celebrations we associate with America today. Cumulatively, all of these things have contributed to the rich tapestry that is Halloween, and to its complex process of transfer. We can admit that isn't something to' or always appreciated.

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Where is this Sun reader?



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The Photography Group

Tuesday 3rd November 10.00-11.45(NB in the Annexe (please use the side entrance)

Bill Sowa (Anglesea & Ormskirk u3a) will present an illustrated talk on **'Ansel Adams, a Landscape of Life'**

Ansel Adams was the most important American landscape photographer of the 20th Century. Through his iconic images of the great American landscapes Adams has been profoundly influential on future generations of artists, photographers, and environmentalists. All u3a Members welcome, £3.00 (cash only).

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Luncheon Group

The Luncheon Group is going to San Marco on Wednesday 25th November,

2 venues (2), to include gratuities. 1st filling up fast and only have a few vacancies.

If you wish to come please sign up and pay next week.

Thank you

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Politics Group

Budget 2026



What did the Chancellor do?

What could be have done?

What should be have done?

Come along with your thoughts and questions, or just listen to the discussion.

Martin will lead the discussion on Monday 9th November at 1.30 in the lounge at Shirrocksy Village Hall. New members are particularly welcome.

Grahame Green

Group Leader

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Mersey Tunnel

There is a ticket available for the Mersey Tunnel tour on Saturday due to illness.

Anyone interested can ring Marie on 07711317426

Meeting at Ormskirk 9.15am Saturday.

Thank you

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Historic Annexation

The History Group are taking advantage of the new TV system in the Annexe and all future sessions will be held there on the second THURSDAY of each month.

The first date at the new venue will be 12th November.

We will also start at 1.30 and finish at 3.30 now that the days are getting darker.

Many thanks to Graham Excetera for being so tolerant over sharing the kitchen with us. Keep on streaming, Donald!

PS. Did you know Ex-Rolling Stones bass guitarist Bill Wyman claims to be the oldest living rock star on the planet at the grand old age of 90?



PRESTON'S QUIZ No. 68

END OF THE MONTH - OCTOBER

1. Which famous English victory happened on 25th October 1415?

2. 25th October is famous as a Saints Day. Name please.

3. 11th October sees the celebration of the World Conker Championships. Where are they held?

4. 4th October 1957 saw the Soviet Union launch, what?

5. Name the two birthstones for October.

6. Bill Gates was born on October 28th 1976. Which company did he co-found with Paul Allen?

7. The United Nations came into being at the October of which year?

8. Which U.S. President made the first television broadcast from the White House in October 1947?

9. Who made the first successful demonstration of electric light in October 1879?

10. They leave every October 23rd and return every March 19th. Who are they?

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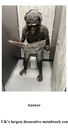
Where was he?



Answer

The British Ironwork Centre and Shropshire Sculpture Park is the UK's largest decorative metalwork centre and metal sculpture park, located near Oswestry in Shropshire

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Answers to Quiz 68

1. Agincourt.

2. St Crispin.

3. Southwick, Sussex.

4. Sputnik 1.

5. Opal, Tourmaline.

6. Microsoft.

7. 1945.

8. Harry S. Truman.

9. Edison.

10. Swallows who migrate to and from their home in San Juan, Capistrano, California

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Events in our Neighbouring Villages

but not u3a

MAWDESLEY MILLENNIUM GREEN

BONFIRE AND FIREWORKS



FRIDAY 6th NOVEMBER

Gates open 5.30 pm

Fire lit at 6.00 pm

Fireworks start at 7.00 pm

Advance Tickets:

Adult - £6 (On the night - £10)

Child - £4 (On the night - £6)

Family - £18 (On the night - £23)

Advanced ticket prices close on 5th November.

All tickets can be purchased by scanning this QR Code:

Or go straight to the site by following this link:

https://www.stuff.co.nz/en-GB/whatsonw/bonfire-night-9

Hot food, hot drinks and cakes available on the night - please bring cord and cash

All profit will go towards maintaining the Mawdesley Millennium Green





The newsletter is compiled and published by the press team.

Thank you to all members who have contributed to this publication

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This email was sent by Beacon on behalf of my.wandsbeacon@btinternet.com