

Russian Language and Culture Group



Winter Study Day at the Lady Lever Art Gallery

On Thursday December 6th the U3A Russian Group enjoyed a day out at the Lady Lever Art Gallery, Port Sunlight. The trip was organised by one of the members, who had through her career as an Art Historian and Art Teacher, become very familiar with the history and artworks at this very special place.

Most of us used our bus passes and travelled by train to Liverpool and then on to the Wirral arriving in plenty of time for a coffee break before we started our winter study day. We were met with a very warm welcome by the gallery staff and shown to a room next to the downstairs café, where we were to have a meeting.

After coffee and a good chat, relaxing on comfy sofas and chairs, we settled in our meeting room and had an hour looking at a Christmas story given to us by a lady who lives in St Petersburg and teaches English at the university. We have talked to her previously at our meetings via skype and it was good to have a Russian story to discuss. This was a modern story with some good humour in it as seen by the Russian people We talked through this in English first and then worked through the Russian text.



Lunch was enjoyed back in the café and I do recommend this to anyone who wants a good day out.

In the afternoon we re-assembled back into our meeting room where Jannice Crawford gave a talk on the Gallery, Artwork, History of the village of Port Sunlight and of course Lord Leverhulme himself. He was a very remarkable man and a true socialist reformer with attitudes to his workers way ahead of the times. Jannice even found three connections to Russia by someone who was a very English gentleman, The talk was followed by a short video about “ The Portrait of a Man”, which gave us an insight into the people and their place in time.

We had all had a great day and some people stayed to look at the artwork in the gallery hopefully studying the wonderful collection of Pre-Raphaelite paintings, ceramics etc. Some of us then walked through the village to the station looking at all the beautiful architecture, war memorial, church, infamous pub etc, while others made their way back home.

We are all certainly looking forward to our studies next year when we meet every other Thursday at the home of Chris Devereux in Birkdale.

Jannice Crawford

