

JANUARY 2008 NEWSLETTER

GROUP NEWS

SCRABBLE The group meet every second Wednesday of the month at 7.30 pm at Carole's home in Mold. It has proved to be a very enjoyable evening for the past two years. Our first meeting of the New Year will be on the 9th January 2008. If you wish to join please 'phone Carole on 01352 758035 and you will be sure of a warm welcome.

BOLIVIA An evening of play took place on the 3rd December with a group of just four players. As everyone enjoyed the evening so much we shall be meeting again on the first Wednesday of every month. We have a list of other members wishing to join but **beginners please** if you would like to come along please telephone Jill on 01244 544646 or Carole on 01352 758035. We will meet alternately in Mold and Buckley.

CARD MAKING This group will meet on the second Monday of the month at Carole's home at 10.30 am until 12.30. We hope that members will share their various skills with us in Quilling, Parchment craft, Prick and stitch, painting, etc. There will be a supply of card, paper, adhesive and some tools but please bring along scissors, ruler, pencil, eraser and anything else you may wish to use. Please ring Carole on 01352 758035.

READING GROUP 3 is now thriving and Margaret would like to say that the first meeting of the New Year will be on January 24th when they will decide which books to read and discuss in 2008. Meetings are held at T'yr Binwydden from 10.30 am until noon on the 4th Thursday of the month.

ART APPRECIATION - A Reminder from Rita: On Tuesday 15th January at T'yr Binwydden from 10.30 until noon, *all* U3A members and friends are invited to hear Tim Pugh on 'Environmental Art' - you will be informed and entertained!

SINGING GROUP Our venue has changed once again - we now meet at the Social Room in the Flats in Acacia Close (between Bromfield Park and Bryn Hilyn Lane) at 2pm on 1st and 3rd Thursdays of the month. Come and sing the songs you thought you'd forgotten and discover stories you never knew were in the songs (like the story preceding the well known chorus - 'To be a Farmer's Boy'). You can contact Rita on 01352 757693.

PHILOSOPHY After being Group Co-ordinator for three years, Tony is standing down and Charles, who is a founder member of the Group, will be taking over. A new series of meetings begins on 23rd January 2008 in T'yr Binwydden at 2.30pm. Subsequent meetings will be on the 4th Wednesday of each month and new members are always welcome. At the last meeting Charles suggested that it might be interesting to consider the work of specific philosophers and try to understand what they had to say. For each meeting, he proposes to send material relating to a specific philosopher to each member, together with a framework for conversation and questions. The task of preparing a framework for subsequent meetings would be shared around. This idea met with general approval and it was agreed that we would start with Plato at our January meeting. Charles can be contacted on 01352 754765

BANGOR STUDY DAY

On the 17th October several Flintshire U3A members attended the study day at Bangor. The programme began with Gwynedd archaeologist David Longley speaking about the Mabinogion. This was accompanied by slides of stunning scenery and beautiful artefacts. He showed how this masterpiece of oral tradition was both fantastical yet full of human drama and part of the physical landscape we still see today. This was followed by a talk on the Church in Wales - its history,

practices, controversies and even vestments. This was given a very humorous treatment by Canon Madeleine Brady who related it in a sincere and personal way.

After a super buffet Peter Winstanley exhibited a selection of his paintings and gave his views on the development of the visual arts in Wales. He recounted his on-going personal journey from agricultural botanist (via a particular liking for the smell of turpentine!) to professional painter; concluding there are as many opinions of art as there are artists. Our session was rounded off with a history of Welsh music by Enid Griffiths, conductor of Cantorion Menai, whose enjoyable choral accompaniments reminded us that Wales has always been a nation of musicians, especially singers. The whole programme showed culture in Wales today to be alive and flourishing in the community and its people.
Sue Matthias.

GROUP MEETINGS

Wednesday, 6th February 2008 is our AGM - 10.30 am at New Brighton Community Centre please make an effort to attend. This will be preceded by a talk, by popular request, on Antarctica by June Hargreaves from Chester.

2 April 2008: Patricia Burton from Mold will speak about her book 'Captive' which describes the slave trade and Liverpool in the late 18th century. She will also tell of the difficulties of getting a book published.

11 June 2008: 'Arrive Alive' presented by The Driving Standards Agency, on keeping older drivers on the road - safely - for as long as possible. This was number 7 in the member survey.

AWAY-DAY TRIP

A group of members paid a visit on the 17th October to the Tir Mostyn windfarm on the Denbigh Moors. Mr. Stephan Werdefroy, the operations manager, gave a most interesting talk about the process of planning, building and running the windfarm. He answered many questions to do with all aspects of the windfarm and then took all the visitors right up to one of the huge turbines. Everybody was impressed by the lack of noise and had a good look inside the base of the turbine mast where the telemetry fascinated everybody. The members came away much better informed about the windfarm and rounded off a good morning with lunch at the Cherry Pie Restaurant.

The next away-day trip on 14th February, is a guided tour round Theatre Clwyd - backstage and front of house. It will start at 11.00am, there will be a small charge and for those who want to, it is intended to organise lunch at the restaurant after the tour. Places are limited so if you are interested please contact me by 20th January. Hilary Jones on 01352 780324.

Bits and Bobs

Next year's Summer School North will be held at Harper Adams College, Newport, Shropshire from Monday 28th July to Thursday 31st July. Subjects on offer are Architecture, English Christianity, Cinema, Crime & Punishment, Photography, French, Geology, Literature, Local History and Philosophy. Diane has further details (01244 544284).

The voice of our Chairman, Anne Smith was heard, outlining the activities and background of the U3A, on the September edition of **Sain Clwyd Sound**. Sain Clwyd Sound is a monthly tape magazine for the visually impaired. It is recorded with both English and Welsh editions and is sent to over 250 listeners throughout the North East Wales area. More information is available on their website www.sainclwydsound.org or by contacting the secretary Mrs Margaret Jones on 01824 780346

Rita tells me that the **Quaker tapestry** will be on show at Chester Cathedral from the 1st to the 29th of February. This is well worth viewing and tells the Quaker story in tapestry.