

FLINTSHIRE U3A NEWSLETTER

Volume 6

Issue 2

April 2011

Flintshire U3A – Friendship & Fun through Lifelong Learning

Visit our website: www.flintshire-u3a.co.uk

INSIDE THIS ISSUE

Groups' News	page 2
3 rd Age Trust	
Conference	page 3
Open Meetings	page 3
Committee	page 3
Interest Groups	page 4

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR MEMBERSHIP FEE FOR 2011/2012?

Fees were due by 31 March, for the membership year commencing 1 March 2011, even for those members who joined part way through last year. The discount deadline has passed so the fee is now £12 – still very good value!

NEW MEMBERS' "Chat & Find Out" MEETING Wednesday 4th May 2011 at 10.30am at New Brighton Community Centre

New members who have joined since November 2010 are warmly invited to this **social** morning where you can meet committee members & co-ordinators & **find out** more about FU3A. Please contact Hilary: 01352 780324.

Contributions for the **June** newsletter are welcomed by **14 May**. Please contact the Editor, **Angela Parry**, on 01352 720501 or email: ameparry@btinternet.com



LIVERPOOL AWAY DAY IN JANUARY 2011

[Chairman's Report February 2011](#)

It has been a great year! FU3A is going from strength to strength. Our membership is now 447. This success is due to all of you and also the many members who do 'just that little bit more'. It is impossible to thank everyone individually here but I would like to acknowledge:

Philip for arranging the excellent speakers for our six Open Meetings, **Lyn** for organising the refreshments, and **Christine and Irene** for welcoming members new and old at the meetings.

Judith and Gill for organising our popular monthly Away Days and our first Away Weekend in London.

Dave for keeping our accounts & finances in good order and gaining grants together with **Philip** for our Open Day, our Allotment and the Belle plates Group.

John for dealing with correspondence, taking minutes and organising the Christmas lunch.

Barry for his sterling(!) efforts collecting membership fees and Gift Aid contributions: as a result of all his efforts, we remain a cheap U3A, but in the nicest possible way! The national average membership fee is £15 a year. Because of the combined team work of **Dave and Barry**, membership fees will stay the same this year. We will be reverting to the postal system for our U3A News and even though that will cost us, we feel it is much more efficient.

Angela for our attractive newsletter and for updating the website, and **Carol** who has recently joined her to learn about maintaining the website.

Sandra for our new advertising poster, and for being the first point of contact for email and telephone enquiries.

Jeff for manning our audio visual equipment at Open Meetings, for maintaining the equipment and for providing clear instructions on its use.

Julia for documenting our history in a beautiful Scrapbook.

Sue for her valuable role across the whole organisation running the Member Support Group. Members who have been ill have taken great comfort from a card from their 'Friends at FU3A'.

All the co-ordinators of our 58 Interest Groups. You could not expand your interests and follow your enthusiasms without them.

New groups this year include – ♦Afternoon Scrabble, ♦Canasta, ♦Exploring Science, ♦Intermediate Spanish, ♦Reading 5, ♦Rendezvous, ♦Short Mat Bowling, ♦Singing for Pleasure and ♦Ten Pin Bowling.

You too, could be a co-ordinator, try it and see!

In April some of our members attended the **All Wales Study Day** about Communication and met members from all over Wales.

At our **Open Day in May** we hosted our MP, our AM and our Mayor who now know far more about the U3A and the activities we offer in this area. Existing members benefited from learning about different groups and as a result many Interest Groups signed up new members.

Gill and I attend three meetings a year with representatives from the other North Wales U3As, where ideas and problems are aired and exchanged. **We represent you at these meetings**, so anything you wish to have mentioned that might affect the other U3As please get in touch with me.

One or two of our members play in the Gwernaffield Silver Band and we were treated to a **concert by them in July**. An excellent evening.

In September a record number of members attended the **Study Day in Wrexham** entitled 'Landscapes and Environments in North Wales'. We had four very different but expert lectures which were fascinating. I recommend you try a Study Day. It is a great day and you will meet other North Wales U3A members too.

A record number of members attended the **Christmas Lunch** at the Beaufort Park Hotel. A good meal, good company and voted a success!

Our new French Group, Rendezvous, **epitomises the U3A ethos**. 8 people wanted to improve their already reasonable French. They got together, decided the contact name, where and when they would meet and that each would take turn in planning and hosting the session. **All contributed and no one person took the strain**. It is working well. So it can be done. **If you have an idea for a new group, take some action**. There will probably be others that would love to join you. Follow your instinct; there is a great buzz to be had from learning something new or sharing your skill with someone else. No targets to reach, no one to criticise and almost no paperwork to complete.

Having just completed my 2nd year as Chairman, I too have learned a great deal: about the U3A, about running an organisation, about tact and diplomacy, about allowing people to use their talents and bringing them on. I have had wonderful support from **you all**, from the **committee** who are special friends now and from my Vice Chair **Gill**, who is always straight with me, hugely helpful and who now has a special place in my heart. As always my thanks to **Wyn** who is such a great support.

This year is my last and it will include our **10th Birthday Party**. I am sure it will be another great year.

Hilary Jones

And a **BIG THANKYOU** to Hilary for all her hard work!

Editor.



GROUPS' NEWS



BALLROOM DANCING - Gentlemen, help us please to begin our Ballroom Dancing sessions with even numbers. We need seven of you to accompany our 'damsels in distress' who would welcome partners. More couples welcome too, so please sign up. **Taster session on Thursday 14 April, 2pm-3pm, at Pantymwyn Village Hall, with dance teacher Dawn Daniels**. The cost is £5 per person per session. Please confirm attendance with **Linda: 01352 742146**.

BRIDGE GROUP We have vacancies for a few more players. Come and join us for a pleasant social evening. Please note that this group isn't for learners. **Jill: 01244 544646**.



CROWN GREEN BOWLS



The new season will commence on Thursday 21st April 2011. Everybody welcome.

Come and play at Rhydymwyn Institute. Own bowls preferable – but some available. Maximum of 20 can play. £1.25 per head, including refreshments. Please wear trainers or flat-soled shoes. 1st and 3rd Thursday of month, 10.00 to 12.00, from April to September, weather permitting. **Barry: 01352 741836**.

FRENCH If anyone is interested in forming another French Group like Rendezvous please contact Hilary who will be happy to facilitate this by putting you in contact with each other. **Hilary: 01352 780324**.



KITING – PROPOSAL FOR NEW GROUP

Some members have expressed interest in a kiting group. Suggestions for the programme are:

▪flying kites (of course!) ▪visiting kite festivals ▪the science and the history of kites ▪and the design and making of kites. (Hot air balloons may come into it too.) If interested please contact **Gill: 01352 713972**.

POETRY (2)

This new group (formed by splitting the original group which had become too large) had its first meeting on Thursday 24th February at the Bryn Awel Hotel, Mold. We are meeting at the same time as the original group, on the 4th Thursday of the month at 2.30pm, and we still have vacancies. Kathleen Raine was March's poet, to be followed by William Blake in April. Anyone interested please contact: **Angela: 01352 770135** or email: smiddyam@hotmail.com.

PLAY READING has vacancies. Do join us! 2nd Thursday of month 2-4pm in Mold. [Charles: 01352 754765](tel:01352754765).

SINGING GROUP

When the Singing Group was asked what they wanted - they cried in unison: "**More men please!**" So any male voices out there - do join us - all abilities welcome! [Freda: 01352 810557](tel:01352810557).



SPINNING WHEEL – PROPOSAL FOR NEW GROUP

Please contact me if you are interested in learning how to use a spinning wheel. Eugenie: [01352 751741](tel:01352751741).

THEATRE GROUP



The next meeting to discuss our future programme is on Friday 27th May 2011 at 11am in the Bistro, Theatre Clwyd. The current programme is on the website so please feel free to get your own ticket if you want to join us for any event. We meet in the bar 15 minutes before a performance. Please note that Sue does not hold spare tickets. [Sue: 01352 752508](tel:01352752508).

WALKING – SUNDAY AFTERNOONS – PROPOSAL FOR NEW GROUP

1st Sunday of month, or 1st and 3rd Sundays, as required.

Meet at Love Lane car park Mold by the meter (free on Sundays). Start off promptly at 1.30pm.

All walks will be within 10 mile radius of Mold, four or five miles long, lasting between 2 and 3 hours and moderately difficult. We will stop half way for rest and refreshment.

Strong walking boots are essential, a walking stick/trecking pole is helpful, and bring a back pack with drink and snack, and your own personal first aid kit. Contact Jane (walk leader/co-ordinator) around mid day on the Sunday for information of the day's walk (depending on time of year and the weather).

[Jane: 01352 756703](tel:01352756703) or email: janeyffoto@talktalk.net.



EQUIPMENT OFFICER Jeff has decided to stand down from the committee and has relinquished his role as Equipment Officer. We wish to thank him for his help over the years in so efficiently managing our audiovisual equipment. We are, therefore, looking for a new Equipment Officer. We need someone who would attend Open Meetings to assemble the equipment, and keep a log of its whereabouts when used by our Interest Groups. Clear instructions are provided so technical ability is not required. Please contact Hilary if you can help in this way.

HOW MEMBERSHIP OF U3A CHANGED MY LIFE

The Annual Conference of the [Third Age Trust](http://www.thirdage.org.uk) will be held in Nottingham on Sunday, 18th September 2011 and the theme is *Celebration of U3A*. Members whose lives have been changed through their membership of U3A are being asked if they would like to tell their story in up to 150 words and include a photograph. If you are interested please contact Hilary who will pass on details of where to send your contribution.

OPEN MEETINGS 2011

– All members welcome.

Remember the Book/CD/DVD Exchange!

All meetings are at 10am for 10.30am at New Brighton Community Centre. A charge of 50p is levied which includes refreshments and a contribution to the hire of the hall.

13 Apr 2011	Speeding in the Slow Lane - Life in the Public Services	by Colin Everett CEO Flintshire CC
8 Jun 2011	The History of Liverpool Airport	by Roy Marsh
14 Sep 2011	The Historic Oregon Trail	by Ian Barclay
5 Oct 2011	Overcoming Adversity	by Swasie Turner
14 Dec 2011	Butler to the Rich and Famous	by Donald Lodge

HELPFUL TIP FROM SANDRA

www.actionfraud.org.uk is a UK site committed to tracking down and prosecuting scammers and con people. In February [Action Fraud](http://www.actionfraud.org.uk) set up a dedicated email address where you can forward any scam emails that you receive. People receiving scam emails are urged to forward them on to email@actionfraud.org.uk.

COMMITTEE 2011/12

Chair	Hilary Jones	01352 780324	Membership Secretary	Barry Ashton	01352 741836
Vice Chair	Gill Causer	01352 713972	Editor	Angela Parry	01352 720501
Treasurer	David Williams	01352 753819	Publicity	Sandra Hulland	01244 818384
Secretary	John Hughes	01352 754065	Other Committee Members	Lynn Moyes	

My thanks to [Viv](#) for helping me compile this newsletter. [Angela](#)

INTEREST GROUPS – APRIL 2011

Additions & Updates in red

* Committee member

GROUP	MEETING VENUE	DAY	TIME	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
Art (1)	Mold, Daniel Owen	Alternate Fridays	09.00-13.00	Anne	01352 752881
Art (2)	Mold Glanrafon Centre	Alternate Fridays	09.00-12.00	Rita	01352 757693
Art Appreciation	Mold Glanrafon Centre	3 rd Tuesday of month	10.00-12.00	Rita	01352 757693
Away Days		Variable		Judith *Gill	01824 780221 *01352 713972
Belle plates	Buckley Church Hall	Mondays	14.00-16.00	Norma	01244 545686
Bridge	Buckley	2 nd Thursday of month	19.30-22.30	Jill	01244 544646
Canasta	Mold/Buckley	1 st Monday of month	19.30 start	Carole Jill	01244 544646
Card Making		2 nd Monday of month	09.30-11.30	Barbara	01352 751388
Chess		2 nd & 4 th Friday of month	14.00 start	Barrie	01352 752418
Computers: Dabblers	Connah's Quay	2 nd Monday of month	10.00-12.00	*Sandra	*01244 818384
Crown Green Bowls	Rhydymwyn (summer)	1 st & 3 rd Thursday of month	10.00-12.00	*Barry	*01352 741836
Digital Photography	Mold Glanrafon Centre	2 nd & 4 th Monday of month	14.00-16.00	Frank	01352 741416
Dining Club (Wednesday)		Bi-monthly, 3 rd Wednesday	19.00 for 19.30	Peter	
Dining Club (Thursday)		Bi-monthly, 1 st Thursday	19.00 for 19.30	Ken	01352 740916
Dining Club (Friday)		Bi-monthly, 2 nd Friday	19.00 for 19.30	John	01352 751881
Exploring Science	Mold Glanrafon Centre	2 nd Tuesday of month	14.00-16.00	Chris	01244 679800
Flora and Fauna		2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays of month	10.00 start	Joe	01352 810318
Flower Arranging	Gwernaffield	1 st & 3 rd Wednesday of month	14.00-16.00	Jenny	01244 818739
French (intermediate) "Rendezvous"		1 st & 3 rd Tuesdays of month	14.00-16.00	Judith	01824 780221
French (advanced)		Bi-weekly on Mondays	15.00-17.00	John	01352 752508
Gardening Club	New Brighton CC	1 st Friday of month	14.00-15.30	Philip	01352 741001
Health and Happiness	Connah's Quay	1 st Thursday of month	13.30-15.30	Julia	01244 813844
Italian (Teach Yourself)		2 nd & 4 th Mondays of month	14.00-15.30	Freda	01352 810557
Lunch Club (Wednesday)	Theatre Clwyd	Bi-monthly, 3 rd Wednesday	12.30 for 13.00	Diane	01244 544284
Lunch Club (Sunday)	In & around Mold	1 st Sunday of month		Sue	01352 754376
Member Support				Sue	01352 754376
Music Appreciation	Methodist Church Mold	1 st Wednesday of month	14.00-16.00	Bea	01352 752737
Philosophy Group	Mold	4 th Wednesday of month	14.00-16.00	Pedr	01352 755958
Pilates	Buckley	Mondays	09.45-10.45	Mary	01244 547238
Play Reading	Mold	2 nd Thursday of month	14.00-16.00	Charles	01352 754765
Poetry (1)	Mold	4 th Thursday of month	14.30-16.00	Tina	01352 753860
Poetry (2)	Mold	4 th Thursday of month	14.30-16.00	Angela	01352 770135
Quilting	New Brighton CC	3 rd Monday of month	09.30-12.30	Margaret *Hilary	01352 753076 *01352 780324
Reading Group (1)	Mold	3 rd Thursday of month	10.30-12.00	Contact	07708435105
Reading Group (2)	Buckley	3 rd Wednesday of month	10.30-12.30	Norma	
Reading Group (3)	Mold	4 th Thursday of month	10.30-12.00	Pat	01352 545893
Reading Group (4)	Mold	4 th Thursday of month	10.30-12.00	Tina	01352 753860
Reading Group (5)	Mold	3 rd Wednesday of month	10.30-12.00	Joan	01352 780644
Scrabble Group (1)	Connah's Quay	2 nd Wednesday of month	19.30 start	Anne	01244 819897
Scrabble Group (2)	Gwernaffield	2 nd Wednesday of month	14.00-16.00	Lyn	01352 740561
Scrap booking		Alternate Fridays		Barbara	01352 751388
Short Mat Bowling	Gwernaffield	Wednesdays	10.00-12.00	Frank	01352 741416
Singing for Pleasure	Mold Glanrafon Centre	2 nd & 4 th Tuesdays of month	10.30-12.30	Freda	01352 810557
Sketching Outdoors	Loggerheads	3 rd Thursday of month	14.00-16.00	Celia	01244 550663
Social History	Gwernaffield	1 st Monday of month	10.00-11.30	Tom	01352 741719
Spanish for Beginners	Maeshafn	Tuesdays	10.30-12.00	Charmian	01352 810607
Spanish (intermediate)	Maeshafn	Fortnightly on Fridays	15.00-16.30	Kath	01244 544451
Table Tennis	Gwernaffield	1 st 2 nd & 3 rd Wed of month	14.00-16.00	Barry	01352 741836
Tenpin Bowling	Chester Greyhound	1 st Thursday of month	10.00-12.00	Barry	01352 741836
Theatre Clwyd	Meet every 3 months	To arrange theatre trips		Sue	01352 754376
Walking Group (1)		3 rd Friday of month	09.45 for 10.00	Philip	01352 741001
Walking Group (2)		1 st Tuesday of month	10.00 start	Sue	01352 752508
Walking Group (3)	Mold, Love Lane	1 st & possibly 3 rd Sun of month	13.30 start	Jane	01352 756703
Walking (Easy Social)		2 nd Thursday of month	10.00 start	Gordon	01244 812836
Welsh Conversation	Mold	4 th Wednesday of month	14.30-16.00	Diane	01244 544284
Wine Appreciation		4 th Thursday of month	19.30 start	*David	*01352 753819
Wood Turning & Carving	Pentre Halkyn	3 rd Monday of month	10.00-12.00	Wyn	01352 780324
Writers Group	Mold	2 nd & 4 th Mondays of month	09.30-12.00	Connie	01352 754838
Yoga	Gwernaffield	Tuesdays (6 session courses)	11.30-13.00	Karen	01352 759333