



DECEMBER 2005 – NEWSLETTER EXTRACTS

Group News

The **Music Appreciation Group** have enjoyed a very good year with attendances of up to ten members. Variety has been the key to our enjoyment. Our listening and the group discussions have ranged from Music Hall comedy to "Plain Chant", when we all made a rather feeble attempt to read the old style notation under the expert guidance of Freda. Other subjects were piano concertos by Greig and Schumann, unfinished symphonies, Rachmaninov, Berstein's "Candide" and Round the World Musical Tours.

During the summer Sylvia invited us to a wonderful buffet lunch at her home. One meeting was spent with the members each speaking about their own personal musical experiences and their first introduction to classical music. Everyone made an interesting and absorbing contribution to an afternoon of memory sharing. Bea will be absent for several months but she will 'see you next year.' Freda will be organising the group from November.

The **Dining Group** now has a full compliment of 20 diners with a waiting list of 8. Would someone like to start a second group? Contact Ken.

The **Bridge Group** can accommodate a couple more players. Anyone interested please contact Ken.

The **Friday Walking Group** start their walks at 10.00 and have vacancies for up to 4 new members. Contact Philip.

The very friendly **Scrabble Group** was formed about a year ago and has proved to be very enjoyable. By way of encouragement we sometimes achieve a good score with two letters – but more are encouraged! The Scrabble Dictionary is available and we do play by the rules. At half-time we enjoy a cup of good cheer, biscuits, excellent U3A company and even a sweetie while moving the tiles around. You will be very welcome at my home. Please contact me, Carole Speller. I look forward to meeting more U3A members in the New Year.

A number of members have expressed an interest in forming an **Art of Flower Arranging Group**. Whether you have already experienced this art form or not and are keen, please contact me to discuss a suitable time and date. Initially I can accommodate a group of say eight at my home. Times could be either afternoon starting at 2 pm or evening at 7.30 pm, and possibly on a Thursday. Carole Speller.

Several members of the **Wednesday Reading Group** recently travelled to Aberystwyth for a one-day festival entitled "*Meet the Author.*" Several authors spoke about their books and there were also book readings, discussions and signings. The day ended with the announcement of the Publishing Trade Award winners.

Our new **Lunch Club** venue has proved very successful. Our next lunch will be at the Theatr Clwyd Bistro on Wednesday, January 25th at 12.30 pm.

Numbers for Wednesday evening **Canasta** have become unviable, but if anyone is interested in playing on a Wednesday afternoon, Carole Speller is prepared to co-ordinate a group at 2 pm on the last Wednesday of the month in Mold. If you are interested contact Carole.

Philip is still looking for members to join his **Fly Fishing Group**.

A **CAT** everyone will love! On a very damp day in September, Mary Katerega kindly took Tony and Rita Newman to the Centre for Alternative Technology at Machynlleth. Our spirits were certainly not dampened because it is the most incredibly inspirational and hopeful place. There is nothing they don't know or can't show or tell you about environmental issues and sustainability for the planet. You come away knowing that you can make a difference to this earth of ours. The restaurant is out of this world – you won't eat a healthier meal anywhere. Mary is hoping to arrange a coach to visit there in the summer. For further information contact Mary.

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ASSOCIATION NEWS

The Annual Study Day for the North Wales Association of the U3A took place on Wednesday, 12th October. Six of us (Joe Phillips, Sue Brown, Maureen Jones and Carole Sandham, Dave Williams and Jeff Green) went down to Bangor where the event was taking place in the Capel Berea Newydd.

It was a really great day – all for £10 (including an excellent lunch) - and I can't recommend it highly enough. There will be another meeting next year. This year the theme was "*The Industrial Archaeology of North Wales.*" We heard four speakers – all introduced by the Chairman of the North Wales Association – Arnold Jones.

In the morning we heard about the Slate Industry from Dr. Dafydd Roberts, Curator of the Welsh National Slate Museum, and Stephen Grenter, Curator of Wrexham Museum, who talked about the Coal Industry of Coalbrookdale and Bersham. After an excellent lunch, where we got to make new friends with members of other groups, we heard from Dr. David Jenkins, who described 4,000 years of Industrial History at Parys Mountain. The day ended with Dr. David Gwyn talking about the Industrial Revolution in Art in his own inimitable style. (Sue Brown)

Forthcoming Association Meetings

On **Thursday, 20th April 2006** at the University of Central Lancashire in Preston, the local U3A are mounting a one-day Conference. The central theme is entitled 'What Next', providing for discussion on recruitment issues: the role of U3A's in the 21st century: are new initiatives needed? etc.

Tuesday, 21st March 2006 at Vicar's Cross Golf Club, Chester is the 2006 Regional Lunch. Up to 8 members can attend at a cost of £12 per head for a 3 course lunch. The speaker is Janet Bradshaw, a guide at Tatton Hall.

March 2006 will be promoted by U3A National Office as '**Awareness Month**'. All **Country Life Magazines** will feature U3A, with a main article on the ethos/philosophy etc., supported by a sub-article on their local County group. It is anticipated that the Cheshire edition will incorporate North Wales. One suggestion that has already been made is that instead of throwing away your **U3A news Magazine** you put them in a prominent

SECRETARY'S SNIPPETS

U3a Summer Schools 2006 – See **Current U3A News** sheet on this site, and/or contact Janet for further information.

If you are connected to the internet you may wish to take advantage of a free monthly service called **Signposts**. Each month a list of very useful web addresses is automatically sent to those who have registered their e-mail address. All you need to do to register is send an e-mail to Tom Holloway, the U3A national IT co-ordinator. Tom's e-mail address is tom.holloway@u3a.org.uk he will then place you on a mailing list. This is a service exclusively for U3A members and it is free of charge.

Do you get unwanted advertising mail? You can stop most unwanted advertising mail by writing to: Mailing Preference Service, Department 97, Freepost 22, LONDON, W1E 7EZ.

IN CASE OF EMERGENCY (ICE) If you have a mobile phone you can store ICE in your 'phone book.' To do this enter ICE followed by a telephone number you would like to be contacted in case of emergency. The Emergency Services will look for the entry and ring that number. You may make more than one entry, but you will need to enter ICE1, ICE2, ICE3 etc.

Janet has received a free copy of **The U3A Story** from the U3A Trust. This is not a riveting read but quite interesting to learn how U3A started in the UK. If you would like to borrow the book, please contact Janet by e-mail or phone.

'The Future of Retirement' – attitudes towards Ageing and Retirement. This survey, commissioned by HSBC, was reviewed in the summer issue of **U3A news**. The bank has made available a copy of the report for each U3A at no cost to us. If you would like to see this report please contact Janet. We can acquire several copies from the U3A Trust if we want them.

U3A/Royal Institute – Janet now has details of this event in 2006. It will be held at The Friends' Meeting House in Euston Road, London on Tuesday, 4th April 2006 starting at 1.30 pm. Contact Janet for further information.