

Flintshire U3A Newsletter

Flintshire U3A - Friendship & Fun through Lifelong Learning

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Diary Dates:

Contributions for the June newsletter must be in by May 9th (email address above)

Next Open Meeting is on Thursday 7th June 10.30am at Connah's Quay Civic Hall.

Message from the Chair:

Firstly, I would like to thank all our members for their patience and understanding during the spell of adverse weather at the beginning of March. A number of events including the A.G.M. and the Twmpath had to be cancelled or postponed. The safety of our members was the priority plus the fact that some of our members were actually snowed in! Going forward into spring, Flintshire U3A has a number of events planned, these will be published on the website and in future editions of the newsletter. The U3A nationally are introducing a number of new guidelines that impact on the running and organisation of U3As at a local level. Although, as far as members are concerned, there will appear to be no significant difference in how we operate, it is important that members know that Flintshire U3A will be implementing relevant changes that will ensure we are operating correctly. The All Wales U3A Conference is on May 9th this year. Any member of a U3A in Wales may attend. For details see the FU3A or All Wales website.

Chris Winner, Chairman, Flintshire U3A

Neges gan y Cadeirydd:

Yn gyntaf, hoffwn ddiolch i'n holl aelodau am eu hamynedd a'u dealltwriaeth yn ystod tywydd garw mis Mawrth. Cafodd nifer o ddigwyddiadau gan gynnwys yr A.G.M. a'r Twmpath Dawns eu canslo neu eu gohirio. Diogelwch ein haelodau oedd y flaenoriaeth gan gofio bod rhai o'n haelodau wedi eu cau adre mewn eira! Wrth nesau at y Gwanwyn, mae nifer o ddigwyddiadau wedi'u cynllunio ar gyfer U3A Sir y Fflint, a nodir y rhain ar ein gwefan ac yn ein cylchlythrau nesaf. Mae'r U3A yn genedlaethol wedi cyflwyno nifer o ganllawiau newydd fydd yn effeithio ar redeg a threfnu cyfarfodydd lleol. Er na fydd ein haelodau yn sylwi bod llawer o wahaniaeth yn ein ffordd o weithio mae'n bwysig bod pawb yn gwybod y bydd U3A Sir y Fflint yn gweithredu yn ol y newidiadau perthnasol. Cynhelir Cynhadledd U3A Cymru Gyfan ar y 9fed o Fai eleni a gall unrhyw aelod o unrhyw U3A yng Nghymru fynd yno. Am fanylion gweler gwefan FU3A neu wefan U3A Cymru Gyfan.

Chris Winner, Cadeirydd, U3A Sir y Fflint

Latest Updates

Chester Cathedral Gardens Talk will now be on Friday 1st June, 2pm in the Methodist Church Mold.

Planning In Retirement the venue is the Grosvenor Hall in Mold on Thursday 31st May 2pm.

Backgammon Group

We have spaces in the group and would love to welcome more members.

Jill Huntington-jillhunti@talktalk.net

Flintshire U3A Visit The Isle of Wight - October 2017

On a very dark and dreary Monday morning 35 members of the Away Day group left Mold on a journey of adventure to I.O.W. Our transport was a first class Voel coach and a first class driver in Robert, who provided a comfortable and safe journey, sharing lots of his knowledge of the Island when we were out and about.



On Tuesday we visited Osbourne house. This is currently popular due to the recent screening on TV of Victoria and the film Victoria and Abdul. The house and its contents provided a look into how Queen Victoria and the royal family enjoyed their leisure time away from London. From their living quarters to the nursery and the most impressive Durbar room it made for a fascinating insight. Victoria was Empress of India, and though never visited did bring lots of India to Osbourne house, displayed in the Durbar room. The house is surrounded by magnificent grounds and perfectly cared for gardens containing a sunken Italian themed garden with statues and fountains. In the grounds there was also the Swiss cottage. This is a wooden built, fully furnished cottage, where Albert would teach the royal children to cook and perform other domestic duties. Constructed over two stories it was any child's dream playhouse. It was a good 20 minute walk from the house, tucked away out of sight, and had the children's garden and sheds and a mini fort and area for them to re-enact battles using their own toy cannons etc. There is also a museum on this site. Some of the more intrepid of us walked a little further to the Queen's private beach, some enjoyed the falconry display on the lawns and most enjoyed the cafes and restaurant. On Wednesday and Thursday we took to the roads of I.O.W and enjoyed lots of excellent scenery, when the mist cleared. Main attractions were The Needles, Yarmouth, Ryde, Gods Hill, Shanklin and of course Sandown where we stayed. We also visited a vineyard that produced local wines and spirits, little villages with the traditional thatched cottages and churches, a couple of the finest preserved piers and of course the local eateries from afternoon tea to fish and chips. There was something for everyone, including shops where some of us also enjoyed a little retail therapy.

The hotel didn't disappoint either. Food was good, rooms were clean and tidy and staff very friendly. The evening entertainment was enjoyed by all. The dancers of us were seen strutting their stuff on the dance floor and others took advantage of the board games or just a quiet after dinner drink. We had our own 'Fred Astaire' in Colin who somehow seemed to have more energy than the rest of us together and danced all evening. Our thanks again go to Gill, and team, for organising yet another great trip. We're looking forward to news on the next one.

Margaret and Peter Cooper

A Walk in the Snow!



On the first Tuesday in February, 14 intrepid walkers assembled in a light snow shower in the Glasfryn Car Park. We were not deterred and off we set. We had a lovely walk and admired the way the snow stuck to the trees and molehills. Disappointingly it camouflaged all the lovely snowdrops. The footing was generally good apart from the usual muddy patch down in the woods where the writer of this article got well and truly stuck and nearly lost a boot!! Fortunately, plenty of help was on hand! After 2 hours a convivial and very well deserved lunch was enjoyed in the Glasfryn.

Noreen Fisher

The Flora and Fauna Group Celebrate



24 members of the Flora and Fauna group met at the Plas Hafod Hotel on February 20th to celebrate their coordinator's 80th birthday. Joe Phillips has coordinated the group since the beginning of the Flintshire U3A. 2 outings a month come rain or shine. What dedication! The group has grown since its early days but Joe's enthusiasm and desire to introduce members to the wonders of nature has continued. He has a wealth of knowledge to pass on and does it in a way which makes us all want to observe and learn. At the celebration there were daffodils, speeches, cards, cakes and a balloon! A fitting way to celebrate a brilliant coordinator.

Noreen Fisher

Archeology Group

April 23rd - Ian Grant - 'Llys Edwin, Part 2.'

Art Appreciation

April 17th Fernand Leger The Tubist

May 15th The Iliad in Art

June 19th Francisco Goya

Armchair Travellers

April 12th - Return to India

May 10th - 2 weeks in the life of a travel consultant

June 14th - Six Days in the UEA

Exploring Science Group

During April and May, we have scheduled two visits to Castle Cement at Padeswood, more details nearer the time. In addition to these visits, Chris Winner will be giving a talk on Invertebrate Life in Fresh Water on our normal meeting dates of 2nd Tuesday of the month in Mold. Please feel free to attend either of these meetings as well as a Padeswood visit. Please also note that the first Padeswood visit is on the same day as our April meeting in Mold, but that the second Padeswood visit takes place a week later than the normal Tuesday meeting in May.

Gardening Group

April 13th 2pm Plas Newydd

May 11th 2pm Framley, Willaston

June 8th 5pm Dolhyfryd, Denbigh

Quilt Group

April 16th Visit to Quilting Bee, Llandudno

May 21st Bowtie Block

Social History

April 9th Building the café on Snowdon

May 7th Abergele Rail Disaster 1868

June 4th Life with Fred Dibnah – Part 2

