

Flintshire **U3A** Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 2

April 2014

Flintshire U3A - Friendship & Fun through Lifelong Learning

Website: www.flintshire-u3a.co.ukEmail: flintshireu3a@yahoo.co.uk

AGM Summary of the Chairman's Annual Report 2014 - by Gill Causer

Flintshire U3a has completed another successful year with our membership continuing to grow steadily. At least one or two new members have joined each week over the last year which shows that we continue to have a very healthy organisation. Events organised during the year were well attended including a summer social and the Christmas concert where we were entertained by our own members from Poetry, Belle Plates, the Singing Group and our very own Harry McDonald. 100 members enjoyed the New Year Lunch at the Beaufort Park.

A coffee morning was held in May for New Members to give them more information about the wider organisation as well as local activities.

She complimented the organising of another successful Away Day Programme including breaks in York, Thursford and Prague. Other events to which members had contributed to were mentioned. A course had been presented to understand and preserve Memory which had been developed by Aughton and Ormskirk U3A. Further courses are planned for 2014. Our three Art Groups had exhibited some of their work in Holywell Library. A generous donation of quilts and cushions had been given by the Quilt Group to Claire House. This had benefitted both the sick children but also our members who had enjoyed the friendship and fun of working together and learning new skills.

She thanked members of the Committee for all their hard work and support during the year. She particularly thanked Chris who has

Diary Dates

May 7th North Wales Study Day

May 8th - New Members Coffee Morning

May 21st - Afternoon Tea

July 31st - Summer Social

Dec. 5th Christmas Event

Newsletter

Please submit contributions for the June Newsletter before Wed. 12th May.

Contacts:

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Carol Williams**

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**Newsletter Editor,
Chris Winner**

Email:
latest.fu3a@yahoo.co.uk

NORTH WALES STUDY DAY

'Myths & Legends'

will be held on Wednesday 7th
May 2014

at The Gallery in Caernarfon
Cost: £12

If you are interesting in attending

Please Contact Hilary

01352 780324
halkyn18@gmail.com

taken the lead to develop our new website which will have improved functionality and will be easier to maintain. And also for taking on the Editorship of the Newsletter. She thanked Hilary for her service to the Committee over the past 6 years in various roles. She also thanked Philip for organising such excellent speakers and the team of volunteers who ensure the smooth running of our Open Meetings by setting up the equipment, organising the refreshments and welcoming members to the meeting.

She paid tribute to the hard work of the Coordinators who are key to the success of our U3A. They are the backbone and life blood of the organisation. She welcomed 13 new Co-ordinators on board. Whilst we are always sorry to lose Co-ordinators – change is healthy and brings new ideas. She thanked the Group Leaders for a greater contribution to our Newsletter this year. She reminded members that getting involved is rewarding and that she would welcome people to come forward to volunteer to help and support the Committee and the organising of events. She acknowledged that people lead busy lives but demonstrated that members of the Committee are still able to give something back to our U3A, despite undertaking grandparenting duties and enjoying foreign holidays – it is not a full time job.

She concluded by acknowledging that Flintshire U3A does engender Friendship and Fun, we are all testing the grey matter as we learn new skills. Equally important is that this promotes a feeling of health and well being for us all.

She thanked the membership for their continued support.

Understanding Memory – Use It Or Lose It

The next course on Understanding Memory commences Wednesday 9th April at Pantymwyn Village Hall, at 10.00 am.

The course consists of 4 two hour sessions, led by Linda Kinsey and Angela Taylor.

The course looks at

- How our memory works
- How our memory may be affected by ageing
- Our current memory abilities
- How we can use understanding of memory processes to improve and maintain our memory
- How illness and stress can affect memory

The style of the course will be informal, but informative, with ample opportunity for discussion and sharing. A comprehensive handbook will be provided, covering the course content and further sources of information.

**If you would like to join the course, or need further information -
Contact Linda on 01352 742146 or Angela on 01352 770135.**

The cost of the course is £16.00.

Course dates: Wednesday April 9th, 16th, 23rd and 30th

Wrexham U3A's new German Conversation Group - Elizabeth

This small group would like to extend an invitation to any interested members of Flintshire U3A to join them. The group is meeting every Tuesday afternoon at 2 p.m. in the Cunliffe Arms, Jeffreys Road, Acton, Wrexham. It is aimed primarily at those who have a little prior knowledge of the language, however rusty, but complete beginners would also be welcome to join if they are prepared to undertake some study at home and would be given every help to acquire enough basic knowledge to be able to take part in the group's conversations although no formal teaching can be provided. Anyone interested can contact Elizabeth Pettitt who is a member of both Flintshire and Wrexham U3As on -

Elizabeth: 01978 854519 or email elizabeth.pettitt@dsl.pipex.com.

Music Appreciation - Terry

Thanks to the Methodist Church in Wrexham Street, we now have more space to welcome new members to the Music Appreciation Group. Not only more space but the use of modern audio equipment to play our music. We play not only classical music but cover folk music, film music, songs from the shows, opera and even a spot of jazz.

It's a great opportunity to meet new friends. So come along and join us, we even provide tea and biscuits!

We meet on the 1st Wednesday at 2pm.



Terry: 01352 741508

"Music, the beautiful disturber of the air!"

Exhibition Of Artwork

Flintshire U3A Art Groups 2 and 3 will be holding their second public exhibition of work. The exhibition will be in in Flint Library and will run throughout May 2014.

Art Group 1 has also been invited to submit artwork for the exhibition.

Contact Shirley, on 07717751612 for further details.

Flora and Fauna - Joe

On 11 March 2014 on a sunny but chilly day 16 members of the flora and fauna group paid a visit to Llanfairfechan to bird watch in the coastal nature reserve and to look across Traeth Lafan (Lavan Sands). The first birds seen were a pair of mute Swans dominating the bank of the nearby boating pool accompanied by five of last years brood. Unfortunately as the tide was a long way out many of the coastal birds were feeding on the mudflats and sandbanks. However, almost 30 bird species were recorded, both coastal species and land birds. The smallest of the British ducks the Common Teal and the largest the Common Shelduck noted. A member of the ubiquitous Mallard plus the less common Eurasian Wigeon and Northern Shoveler were seen. Few waders were present those noted were many Northern Lapwings performing their complicated aerial manoeuvres, a smaller number of Eurasian Curlew were heard calling and the Eurasian Oystercatcher were probing for food in muddy lagoons, as the tide was advancing up the shore there were many more of this species standing along the strand line. Two waders, the very similar looking Common Redshank and Common Greenshank were confusing members until positive identification was sorted out. The ever present Back-Headed and European Herring gulls were forever calling whilst the attractive white Little Egret with its blacklegs and sharply contrasting yellow toes was keeping silent vigil in the never ending search for food. Some of the land birds were very perky agile Pied Wagtail which was busy hawking for any insects available, A trusting European Robin was singing close by whilst charming Long-tailed tits were foraging for food in the bushes. A Common Skylark was attempting to start a 'Spring version' of it's territorial display complete with song but gave up after a short time. Overhead Common Buzzards and Common Ravens were competing for space, soaring high on the thermals. Plants seen in flower were Coltsfoot, Primrose including a pink coloured form, Goat Willow and Black Thorn.



After a splendid day in the fresh air and sunshine in good company, members then retrace their steps to the car park to enjoy well-deserved refreshments in the nearby Beach Hut Cafe and then the journey homeward.

Grumpies Too - Ken

A number of the male members of the FU3A met on Tuesday 4th February 2014 to discuss, determine and agree on, amongst many matters, the following -

1. Monthly meetings will take place on the first Tuesday of every month commencing at 11 am with the next meeting on Tuesday 4th March 2014 at the Bistro at Clwyd Theatre Cymru.
 2. An open invitation be extended to ALL FU3A Male Members on a first come first served basis.
- If you would like more information, or to become a Member of this modest, reserved but select intellectual grumbling group please contact:

Ken: 01352.740916 or e mail archerkp@btinternet.com

ATGOFION YR HÂF (Memories of Summer) - Vera

Last July, some members of the Basic Welsh Group enjoyed a Garden Party. We were invited to Sue Davies' garden in Maeshafn on a lovely sunny afternoon. We were joined by Joe "Caravan" who enlightened us about the Welsh way of life.

~ MEMBERS' CORNER ~**Calling all FU3A writers!**

Members of U3As in Wales are invited to submit a short story in a competition covering the whole of Wales. Closing date is 30th June 2014, maximum of 1500 words with a Welsh theme. Results will be announced by 1st October.

Entries submitted to Derek Shottin, by email dshottin@gmail.com or hard copy to him at Windermere, Chapel Lane, Pwllmeyric, Chepstow NP16 6JS More information on the All Wales website.

Feedback please!

Every year one of the N Wales U3As hosts a study day, when 4 good quality speakers each give a presentation on a central theme. The cost is approx, £12 which also includes coffee and lunch.

Despite having over 600 members Flintshire struggles to fill the allocated 22 places. Why?

If any of you have comments or suggestions as to why this is not so appealing, I would really appreciate hearing from you.

Please take a few minutes to get in touch. **Hilary**
halkyn18@gmail.com **01352 780324**

~ Computing ~

Time to stop Dabbling and start Computing!

We meet on the 2nd and 4th Monday of the month at 10 am. We cater for people with all levels of computing experience, from beginners to those who want to become more competent in the use of the variety of software that is available.

For more specific information on what we can offer please contact -

Sandra: 01244 818384
Chris: 01244550381

**Membership Fees**

A check in the middle of March revealed that a number of our members had not renewed their membership for 2014. If payment is not received by the end of March then individuals will not be able to participate in Group activities.

We hope this is just a lapse of memory and that we will be able to welcome you back to enjoy the activities of the U3A.

Please contact Barry 01352 741836

*** A Little Reminder ***

If you are a new member wishing to attend a group or you are a member of a group but are unable to attend, please contact the group co-ordinator to let them know.



Thank you.

Lady Grumpies

The first 3 groups - each run by someone different and at a different place and time, now have maximum numbers. We will start group 4 when more people come forward. Please contact one of the group co-ordinators for more information.

Mary: mary194johnson@btinternet.com
01352 741001 or
Hilary: halkyn18@gmail.com 01352 780324

New Members' Coffee Morning

Wednesday 8th May 2014 at 10:30am
New Brighton Community Centre

New members who have recently joined Flintshire U3A are cordially invited to join us. Come along and meet the committee and some of the co-ordinators. You will be able to find out more about the U3A and learn about the interest groups and socialise with other new members.

For further information please contact:

Gill Causer on 01352 713972 or
gillian.causer@btinternet.com.

~ Simple Science Morning ~

Wednesday May 14th, 10:00 to 13:00,
New Brighton Community Centre



A talk by KEN CLARK will start the morning.
Followed by -

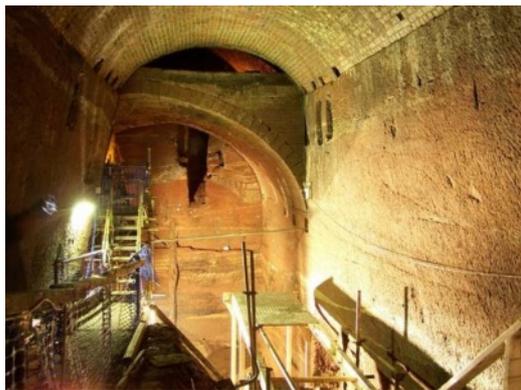


An audience with - CHARLES DARWIN

Tickets will be £5 and this will include a buffet lunch.
Tickets will be on sale at the Open Meeting or from
CHRIS (01244 679800): chris@christopherjhil.fsnet.co.uk
PHILIP (01352 741001): Philip194johnson@btinternet.com

“If you wish to make an apple pie from scratch, you must first invent the universe. “ Carl Sagan

Liverpool Docks Away Day - Judith



On the 19th February 46 members of Flintshire U3A Away Days Group boarded a coach for a trip to the Old Docks at Liverpool. We were again lucky with the weather as is normally the case on our Away Days! First of all we went to the Maritime Museum where we were divided into two groups. The Maritime Museum has an exhibition about the Titanic which was very interesting and reinforced what a terrible disaster that had been. We were then introduced to our two guides - Yassa and Danny - who were absolutely fantastic. They took us over to the Old Dock and en route showed us the old water course which led to the dock. The dock was designed by Thomas Steers and opened in 1715. It was the first commercial wet dock and the birthplace of Liverpool's later commercial success. It was rediscovered during excavations in 2001 after being buried since 1826. Yassa and Danny were a mine of information and obviously took a great pride in the dock. More renovation and excavations are being undertaken. It is preserved under Liverpool One development and is well worth a visit. We returned to the coach at 3.30 and it was agreed by all that we had had another excellent day"

Armchair Travellers

Come along to Armchair Travellers and visit places like Australia, St Petersburg, USA and Europe, without leaving Flintshire. The group meets at NBCC on the 2nd Thursday at 2pm. For 50p you get wonderful photos of interesting places, refreshments and good company.

The programme is on the website, any further information from - Chris Winner 07545018178 chriswinner1@aol.com or Hilary Jones 01352 780324 halkyn18@gmail.com

Away Day Theatres

This new Group has launched its first two events

12th April – Liverpool Playhouse - A View from the Bridge - All tickets sold

26th June Manchester Exchange – Billy Liar , some tickets are still available contact Terry: 01352 741508 or Gill: 01352 713972

CROWN GREEN BOWLING

The summer will soon be upon us and the Bowling Green at Rhydymwyn Institute beckons again with the sounds of Lignum Vitae. Every 1st and 3rd Thursday at 10:00 the sun shines and the lighthearted fun begins, only to be interrupted by the tea and biscuits at halftime. Everybody is welcome, you don't even need to know how to play! Instruction is available and equipment if needed. Ring Barry on 01352 741836 to express an interest and then turn up. We would love to see more regulars. Only £1 including refreshments.



New season starts on Thursday 17th April!

Belle Plate Ringers - Pat



The ringers meet weekly at Mynyddysa Community Centre 2:00 - 4:00 p.m. on Monday afternoons.

Come and join us to make music, a truly shared learning experience. All music and equipment is supplied, musical knowledge is not essential - you will find varying degrees of musical ability in the group.

Just bring along your enthusiasm and a smile.

Please contact Pat on 01244543156 for further information.

Flintshire U3A Committee Members

Chair	Gill Causer	01352 713972	Publicity	Sandra Hulland	01244 818384
Vice Chair	Alan Harris	01352 700062	Website Manager	Carol Williams	01244 836049
Treasurer	Elen Williams	01352 752174	Newsletter Editor	Chris Winner	01244 550381
Secretary	Elaine Ingman	01352 740704	Other Committee Members	Leslie Willis Jerry Carter John House	01978 861482
Membership Secretary	Barry Ashton	01352 741836			