

Flintshire **U3A** Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 1

February 2015

Flintshire U3A - Friendship & Fun through Lifelong Learning

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

Annual General Meeting 2015

Flintshire U3A will be holding its AGM on Wednesday 4th March 2015
10:00 for 10:30am at New Brighton Community Centre

Angela Parry will be giving a talk on 'My Gap Year at 60 in the Outback'

Any item for discussion at the AGM must be submitted in writing to secretaryfu3a@gmail.com or Awel y Mynydd, Cilcain Road Pantymwyn, Mold Flintshire CH7 5NJ before Friday 13th February 2015.

The Minutes of the 2014 AGM are available on the website.

Diary Dates

Mar. 4th - AGM

Apr. 1st - Open Meeting

May 13th Celtic Myths

Newsletter

Please submit contributions for the April Newsletter before March 20th 2015



CELTIC MYTHS & MUSIC

Wednesday 13th May 2015, 10.30am at the New Brighton Community Centre

Don't miss the opportunity to hear Dafydd Davies-Hughes who gave an excellent performance at the North Wales Theme Day last year in Caernarfon and Ruth Moore Williams for a morning of Welsh folklore. The session will be followed by lunch. Tickets are limited so book early. Cost (including lunch) £6.00.

Tickets are available from Anne 01352 752881.

RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP SUBSCRIPTIONS

Have you paid £10 to renew your membership subscription?

If not please send a cheque **before 1st March** made payable to Flintshire U3A together with an **SAE** to Membership Secretary, 24 St Peter's Park, Northop, Flintshire, CH7 6DP.

Any renewals paid after 1st March will be £12 (No exceptions)

Contacts:

Website Manager,
Carol Williams

Email:
flintu3aweb@yahoo.co.uk

Newsletter Editor,
Chris Winner

Email:
latest.fu3a@yahoo.co.uk

FU3A Newsletters

Please note. Flintshire U3A Newsletters are published five times a year in February, April, June, September and November.

Away Days Theatre Group - Diane

We remain true to our aim of providing a wide variety of theatrical experiences.

On a chilly November evening, some 47 of us boarded a bus and headed to Llandudno on a nostalgia trip. The destination was Venue Cymru, where "The Sensational 60s Experience" offered a chance to revisit our youth, with performances by a number of bands from that era. We were led - nay, thrust - down memory lane by the Ivy League, Union Gap, Dave Berry, Herman's Hermits, and the Swingin' Blue Jeans who persuaded a number of us to stand up and join in - perhaps a little less athletically than we



PLEASE CAN YOU HELP?

We urgently require a **Speaker's Secretary** to organise speakers for our Open Meetings.

Work alongside the current Secretary for 2015 to book our Speakers for next year. Without a replacement there will be no more Open Meetings in 2016!

Please contact Gill 01352 71372

The German Group - Elizabeth

We meet at the Cunliffe Arms in Acton at 2 p.m. on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday afternoons during January, February and March but from 14th April meetings will be held in the Community Room upstairs in Tesco, Wrexham, which offers a much quieter environment, free tea and coffee and facilities to listen to CDs or use the computers provided. However, we could certainly do with a few more members in the group. Dave and Judy, who come all the way from Holywell!! We would indeed offer a very warm welcome to any other Flintshire U3A members who would like to join us even if they could not commit to coming every time.

The range of pre-existing knowledge varies widely amongst the Group members though none is an absolute beginner. I try to make sure everyone can participate at the level they are at and learn from each other. We are not currently using a text book but may decide to do so at some stage. Up to now I have been preparing worksheets on various topics such as travelling around, booking a hotel, shopping, eating out, etc. with hints on useful vocabulary which we have gone through together and then in twos and threes we have tried to converse on that topic. Although grammatical points do inevitably come up and members do sometimes prepare written work at home the emphasis is on speaking and understanding German rather than writing it. Members can request particular topics or ask for practice with certain things such as tenses or pronouns or even a dictation exercise and now and then I try to stretch them with snippets from a newspaper or a German author so those who are a bit more advanced don't get bored and I hope everyone learns something new every time, including me. The only photo I have of the group was taken when some of our group members were missing. It gives some idea, I hope, that we are a friendly and welcoming one – the lady on the left had fallen in the dark so was unfortunately sporting a black eye!



Contact: Elizabeth

Chess Group - Barrie

This is a small group, currently meeting in members' homes on the second and fourth Friday afternoons of the month. We began in 2008 and thanks to generous funding secured for us by Philip Johnson, the Chairman at the time, we acquired four chess sets and a chess computer which can be used at home to brush up on old chess skills or to develop new ones. We have no other expenditure and since 2009 all our meetings have been cost free to members. Research in the United States suggests that playing chess reduces the risk of Alzheimer's by 74% (reported in The Times in May 2008), so are there any more chess players around wanting to make a comeback or beginners ready for a new challenge? To say 'yes' or to discuss.



**Contact Barrie on
01352 752418.**

Film Club - David

**We meet fortnightly on Tuesdays at 2pm. Eleanor House,
Shotton Lane, Shotton, CH5 1QU.**

17th February

Colin Firth, Geoffrey Rush in - The King's Speech

3rd March

**Richard Griffiths, Frances de la Tour in -
The History Boys**

17th March

Luise Rainer, Lionel Atwill in - The Great Waltz Tuesday

31st March

**Charlton Heston, Rex Harrison in -
The Agony and the Ecstasy**

**The full programme is available on the
website.**

Contact: David: 07803162230



Digital Photography - Neville



On Saturday, 27th September 2014, Hanson's Cement held an Open-day at their Padeswood Works. Their purpose was to invite the local population to come to the works to see what the company was doing and also by invitation to allow local organisations to display their activities.

Since late 2011, The Flintshire U3A Digital Photography Self-Help Group have been fortunate to make regular use of the Hanson's Cement Padeswood Works Board-Room at no cost. This room is equipped with computer projector and screen so the group is able to display individual photographs for the whole group's consideration. So the U3A sub-group agreed to exhibit some of its activities at the Open Day.

The photograph shows a part of the display with a rolling screen display of many more photographs behind thanks to Mike Dugdale.

Members of the U3A in the picture below are, from left to right, Mike Dugdale, Eldon Hughes, Sandra Parker, Joyce Howell, Neville Howell, Judy Lea and Sue Hughes.

'Somewhere, something incredible is waiting to be known.' - Carl Sagan

Visit to Media City - Alan

A coach full of Flintshire U3A members enjoyed an informative and entertaining visit to the BBC studios at Media City, home of news, sports and many other TV programmes, and were given a fascinating "behind the scenes" tour of the complex, where several thousand people are employed. The sheer scale of the technical wizardry on display was amazing and showed how the relatively small studio space could be transformed by the use of wide angle lenses into the vast expanses seen on the TV screen. The phenomenon of the "Presenters walk" was also revealed and the complexities of the highly intricate lighting systems shown. Several members were invited to display their news reading and weather presenting skills (to general applause!) and are anticipating contracts in the post at any moment! Time was also available to visit other attractions in the area and to enjoy a leisurely lunch. Another triumph for our Away Day organisers!



Singing for Pleasure - Marie

On 4th December as Christmas was approaching the Singing For Pleasure group visited Llys Jasmine residential home in Mold.



The staff made us very welcome and we entertained the residents with our rendition of a selection of songs from the musicals followed by a medley of well known seasonal songs and carols.

Their family and friends all joined in whenever they could and helped make it a truly enjoyable and worthwhile afternoon. Everyone was motivated to sing loudly and wave their arms when we performed "You'll Never Walk Alone". We repeated this well loved song much to the delight of the football fans in the audience.

We are planning a return visit soon to the Windmill Day Centre in Buckley and a guest appearance at Chatterboxes Stroke Club.

Berlin Visit - Gill



In October more than 40 members visited Berlin, a city poised to celebrate 25 years of reunification. Berlin seemed to have a museum for everything – from transport to the lids of biscuit tins! Art, invention and, above all, history were the

dominant themes; between us we explored many of the displays. There were also leisurely times for a cruise on the river, listening to music, or sampling local restaurants. Our heartfelt thanks go to Judith for making it all possible.



Some 2015 dates for you diary. Gardening Group and Science Group open talks.

Friday 6th February, 2:30pm at New Brighton CC
'Wonderful Winter'
by Carol Madden

Tuesday 10th February 2pm
at The Methodist Church, Mold
'Genetics of Unknown Populations.' How to establish hair eye and skin colour from a skull and other stories
by Dr Jari Louhelainen

Tuesday 14th April 2pm
at The Methodist Church, Mold
'Earth and the Universe'
by Alan Brown, the Science and Technology facility at Daresbury

Friday 10th April 2pm
at The Grosvenor Hall, Mold
'Spring into Summer with Pots and Planters'
a demonstration by local garden designer and broadcaster, Jenny Hendy

Each talk is £2 including TEA and CAKE

Contact Philip - 01352 741001

Potential New Groups

Is there anybody out there?

.....who would like to join a group to play music? Do you have a guitar covered in dust in your loft? Do you eat your lunch off a Marshall speaker cabinet. Do you have any instruments serving as ornaments in your lounge?

If so and you'd like to play them again, contact John on john.house6@hotmail.co.uk or 01352 720860 or 07917 461407.

A chance chat about modern dance leads to ----

.....would anyone be interested in joining a group to talk about and/or do any form of dance...or movement?

Ballet, contemporary dance, choreography, folk dance, ballroom dancing, jive, tai chi, yoga, pilates, movement therapy, relaxation therapy...anything.

Just a thought.

If so, contact John on john.house6@hotmail.co.uk or 01352 720860 or 07917 461407. John will be at the Open meeting on Feb 4th to sign people up. There's more information on our website about both potential new groups.

Visit to Robert's Bakery - Lesley



On the 7th January, we set off in pouring rain and strong winds to visit Roberts Bakery in Northwich. When we arrived we were met by a member of staff and given protective clean overalls and special shoes and very fetching orange net caps to cover our hair. Two of the men had to wear snoods to cover their beards! We were taken to Little Treats which is the bakery for the making of a variety of gingerbread biscuits for many of the supermarkets and Costa Coffee which were decorated by incredible machines on a production line and also by hand by a team of ladies who each iced different colours, very quickly and so accurately! The plant machinery automatically makes gingerbread men, heart shapes for Valentines, Easter bunnies and different animals for Costa Coffee, it was so clever. We were then taken to the bread plant and watched dough being made which then goes through the machines automatically and comes out the other end as delicious smelling rolls! Unfortunately there was a problem with the loaf making machine so we didn't get

to see that bit but watched the loaves being sliced and wrapped in the different supermarket bags ready for delivery. We then went back to the meeting room for tea and biscuits and a video of the family history, four generations of the Roberts family running the business, quite something these days! The business employs 850 people and is still growing. We left with a 'goody bag' of delicious fattening things and all enjoyed a really good and interesting day out. Thank you Gill for organising the day.

Bird Watching along the Manchester Ship Canal! - Joe

During the Flintshire U3A cruise along the Manchester Ship Canal on 13th August 2014 members of the Flora and Fauna Group on board decided to note all bird species seen, after observing a number of bird species both on the canal water and in the trees alongside the water course. A total of 28 species were finally logged, which included both aquatic and land species, with the highlight of the day being a splendid Kingfisher. The species included: Black-headed Gull, Great Black-backed Gull, Herring Gull, Lesser Black-backed Gull, Canada Goose, Carrion Crow, Common Buzzard, Common Sandpiper, Common Wood Pigeon, Coot, Feral Pigeon, Great Cormorant, Grey Heron, Grey Wagtail, House Martin, Kingfisher, Lapwing, Little Egret, Magpie, Mallard, Mute Swan, Oystercatcher, Peregrine Falcon, Pied Wagtail, Shelduck, Starling, Swallow and Swift. It was a wonderful day out, so full of interest and in good company.

The following Interest Groups have their programme of talks for 2015 available for download from the FU3A website. All FU3A members are welcome to attend the meetings, for which a nominal charge is made. Refreshments are provided.

Archaeology
Armchair Travellers
Art Appreciation
Gardening Group
Science Group
Social History



FU3A ended 2014 with two excellent social events, which attracted many of their members - the Christmas Concert where some of our members members entertained, us and the end of year coffee morning was enjoyed by 50 of our members!

A few of our members 'catching up' in the kitchen at the coffee morning on December 30th!

Would you like to represent Wales on the National Executive of the U3A?

The present trustee finishes his 3 year term of office in July 2015. Interested to find out more?
Contact Hilary Jones 01352 780324 halkyn18@gmail.com

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	01978 861482
Membership Secretary (Co-opted)	Lesley Roberts	01352 840532		Jerry Carter	01244 546529
				John House	01352 720860