

# Flintshire **U3A** Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 2

April 2015

## Flintshire U3A - Friendship & Fun through Lifelong Learning

Website: [www.flintshire-u3a.co.uk](http://www.flintshire-u3a.co.uk)Email: [flintshireu3a@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:flintshireu3a@yahoo.co.uk)

### Message from the Chairman March 2015

From its inception, Flintshire U3A has been singularly fortunate in having a succession of capable and energetic Chairmen/women, resulting in the highly successful organisation that we have today. I must pay tribute to them all, and hope that I will be able to carry on their good work and to continue a process of steady growth and expansion of our activities.

We must remember, however, that it is only by the hard work and enthusiasm of our committee members, coordinators and group members that all the things we enjoy come into being. We cannot rest on our laurels and I hope that everyone will continue to pitch in and help across the board, as and when required. Our U3A is only as good as you make it, so we need volunteers to keep coming forward in all our areas of activity.

So, good luck to all, in the hope that we will enjoy another active year of doing and learning with plenty of fun on the way!

**Alan Harris 2015**



### Diary Dates

**Celtic Myths and Legends**  
Wednesday May 13<sup>th</sup>  
New Brighton CC

**Wednesday June 3<sup>rd</sup>**  
Open Meeting,  
New Brighton CC

**Wednesday Sept 2<sup>nd</sup>**  
Open Meeting,  
New Brighton CC

**Newsletter**  
Please submit  
contributions for the June  
Newsletter before May 20<sup>th</sup>



### CELTIC MYTHS & MUSIC

**Wednesday 13<sup>th</sup> May 2015, 10.30am at the  
New Brighton Community Centre**

**Cost (including lunch) £6.00.**  
**The event is sold out but there is a reserve list.**  
**Contact Anne 01352 752881.**

### Relations - Hilary



'You can choose your friends, but you are stuck with your relations'

The popular TV programme, 'Who do you think you are', provokes many people into asking, who were their forebears; where did they live and what did they do.

Flintshire U3A member, Ruth Smith, the coordinator for the Sewing Group, 'Material Girls', is one such person and she has traced her family back to the 1700 s. Her great great

grandmother was Mary Hewitt, born in 1846 who lived in Connah's Quay. Also tracing his family tree is Wyn Jones the Woodturning coordinator and he has discovered his great great grandfather was Samuel Hewitt, born in 1834 who also lived in Connah's Quay. In an extraordinary coincidence Ruth and Wyn met quite by chance at a FU3A event and comparing family trees realised to their great delight that Samuel and Mary were brother and sister, and that Ruth and Wyn were therefore actually fourth cousins. Well naturally, a celebratory cake was cut and champagne toasts made to the fine list of all those early generations.

The FU3A motto comes into play here, because Ruth and Wyn have become **Friends** and **Lifelong** relations by **Learning** about their early relatives and the **Fun** starts now in looking up more branches of their family tree.

Well done Flintshire U3A.

### Contacts:

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### GRUMPIES - *The Lord of Grumps*



Philip Johnson started the first FU3A Grumpies Group in July 2013 and it is still "going strong". Whether it was the first ever U3A Grumpies Group is not certain. What do we do and why does it work? In common with all FU3A activities, learning with friendship and fun, features large. We discuss news and other items, which are primarily from newspaper

cuttings brought "on the day". They may be local or wider, small or world shattering, but all give concern.

We have intense debating, with grumpiness overlaid, an OK lunch, in OK company, with many issues solved and unintentional 'grumpy' smiles. From time to time issues arise which have led to action by the Grumpies. One being when John introduced his experience of a Credit Card Scam. This resulted in the HSBC Expert from Canary Wharf in "How to avoid scams" giving a very well received presentation to many FU3A members.

The issue of public acceptability to some awards of knighthoods, led to investigation of the decision making process, and a realisation that simple questions to the Cabinet Office do not lead to straight answers.

### Planned New Groups

#### Music, African Drumming and Movement - or



Performing Arts for short. Over 40 people have expressed interest so far.

There'll be a start-up meeting at Mold Methodist Church on Friday, April 24<sup>th</sup> from 10 - 12 to discuss what we want to do and to find common ground.

John will contact everyone who's shown interest so far with more details.

He would also welcome any more interested members to contact him by email on [john.house6@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:john.house6@hotmail.co.uk) or by telephone on 01352 720860 or 07917 461407.

### Social History - *Brian*

After following in the able footsteps of Tom Martin and other previous coordinators, I am pleased to report that the Social History section goes from strength to strength, with meetings being attended in large numbers; we had 97 at our March meeting to hear

Kevin Matthias's excellent talk on Little Harriet & The Wild West family at Ruthin Castle. We have a full and interesting programme for the rest of the year, with a reminder that the group meets on the first Monday of each month, except Bank Holidays, when it becomes the second Monday. The meetings take place at the New Brighton Community Centre, near Mold, commencing at 10.00am.



Lectures are usually of approximately one hour duration, which includes time for any questions. A number of visits to local places of interest are arranged for the Spring & Summer period, e.g. Nantclwyd y Dre (Ruthin) and Plas Newydd (Llangollen) has also been requested. All Members of the Flintshire U3A are very welcome to attend any of our meetings and a full programme of speakers/topics for 2015 can be viewed and downloaded from the Flintshire U3A website.

### \*POTENTIAL NEW GROUP\*

**Would anyone be keen to form a Spanish conversation group?**

If so please contact Kath on [k.hegarty497@btinternet.com](mailto:k.hegarty497@btinternet.com)

### THE GARDENING GROUP INVITES YOU TO A TALK

To  
The Grosvenor Hall (Darby and Joan, Mold)  
on  
Friday 10<sup>th</sup> April at 2:30pm



'SPRING INTO SUMMER WITH POTS AND PLANTERS'  
A DEMONSTRATION BY  
JENNY HENDY  
(Local Garden Designer and Broadcaster)

£2.00 including refreshments

### Away Day Theatre Group

Tickets are available for the highly acclaimed National Theatre Production of

### The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night-Time



at the Empire Theatre in Liverpool

Thursday 23rd July - Matinee 2.30pm

Ticket - £15

To book tickets please contact: Jenny Woolley  
01352713368 before 17th April 2015

**'When you're curious, you find lots of things to do.' - Walt Disney**

### Wine of the Month - Barry



After yet another fantastic meeting of Wine Appreciation (Group One) entitled "Sunny Chile Wines for a Chilly February", the overwhelming winner was yet another Red. Sainsbury's provided this one called, Vina Maipo, a Cabernet Sauvignon 2013, only 12.5% at £7.50. The colour promised rich dark fruit flavours, the bouquet reinforced our expectations, then the taste! Strong without the pain, wonderful on the palate and delicious all the way down. A true winner. Give it a try, you will not be disappointed.

### Crown Green Bowls - Barry

Its that time of year again when the bag at the bottom of the wardrobe is brought out and the faithful "woods" are given their annual polish. The short season will start on April 16th, at Rhydymwyn Institute at 10 am. As always, anybody is welcome. We can lend bowls to starters and full instruction is on hand. Costs are a pound a session, which includes a drink. The opportunity to work on the tan is free! So come along and give it a try. Please let me know beforehand on **01352 741 836** so that I will have enough teabags!



### Public Transport to New Brighton - Jane

Information for members who would like to travel to Open Meetings and other FU3A events at New Brighton Community Centre by public transport, or walk from Mold .

Below is the timetable for the Route 4 bus the journey time is around as 5 minutes and the X5 7 minutes.

**The information is from the Arriva website.**

#### From Mold Bus Station stand 5 to New Brighton

**Arriva bus No. 4** at 0840, 0910, 0940, 1010  
**Arriva bus No. X55** at 0850, 0915, 0945, 1015

#### From New Brighton to Mold Bus Station

**Arriva bus No. 4** at 1155, 1225, 1255, 1325, 1355  
**Arriva bus No. X55** at 1204, 1304, 1404, 1504

The bus stop is a short walk from the Community Centre. The walk back to Mold is about 1 mile and down hill on a wide pavement.



### Craft Group - Beverley and Carol

It felt like spring was in the air, even in February, as the Craft Group set about making pincushion bonnets and flowerpots. Ruth demonstrated how to make these delights using old CDs, scraps of fabric and ribbon and a bit of stuffing, all with minimal sewing. January's session saw Maureen showing us the secrets of pillow box-making using recycled Christmas and birthday cards while Carol will be enlightening us on the art of paper-folding in March. We meet at the Glanrafon Centre, Mold, 10-12 noon, every fourth Tuesday of the month.



### Short Mat Bowls - Peter

Friendship and fun can be found every Wednesday morning in the Church Hall at Gwernaffield.

The short mat bowls group gives you value for money too as for approximately £2.00 you get coffee or tea and biscuits, sometimes even cake!! A friendly crew, we welcome new members. Marie and Ethel are our newest recruits. No previous experience necessary and "woods" (bowls) are provided.



### Film Club - David

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

**Coming up .....**

**April 14<sup>th</sup> Jane Horrocks, Peter Mullan in - SUNSHINE ON LEITH**

**April 28<sup>th</sup> Julie Walters, Jamie Bell in - BILLY ELLIOT**

The full programme is available on the website.  
**Contact: David: 07803162230**



### Away Day to Coventry Cathedral - Anne



We first looked at the footprints of St. Mary's Priory uncovered during neighbouring building works.

Then we explored the ruins of St. Michael's Cathedral which was destroyed in the blitz of November 1940. The ruins have been preserved and now lead into the New Cathedral. It was conceived and built within 10 years in the 1950s and 60s, with contributions from many nations and parishes. The New Cathedral is built from beautiful soft red sandstone, with geometric patterns in the brickwork and a dramatic bronze by Epstein depicting the final triumph of good over evil. The main door is glass etched in white, with floating Saints and Angels.

Inside the Cathedral is plain and simple, a backdrop to many treasures, the two most celebrated being the tapestry designed by Graham Sutherland (unfortunately covered for necessary cleaning) and the stained glass windows. The windows reflect the journey through life and for me were scene stealers.

After a very informative guided tour we had the afternoon free to explore the surrounding museums and enjoy the sunshine. A lovely visit enjoyed by all thank you Mary for all your hard work arranging this visit.



### Away Day to M&S - Ken

Through Judith's consistent reliability and organisation, I with some 19 others, were in the recent Group visit to M & S at Cheshire Oaks. What a first class highly interesting visit with so many futuristic design & construction achievements in which to produce such a



remarkable building that can be dismantled & re erected elsewhere, should ever the need arise. With regard to their Marketing & Sales activities together with the support for various charities they are, in the opinion of many, a company to be congratulated & supported. Concerning "support" we are now, following this visit, much wiser with regard to the increase in ladies resident in various parts of Africa wearing bras - surprising what one can learn in less than a day.

### THE SCIENCE GROUP INVITES YOU TO A TALK

At the Methodist Church, Wrexham Street Mold  
on  
Tuesday 14th April at 2pm



'EARTH AND THE UNIVERSE'  
BY  
ALAN BROWN  
(Science and Technology Facility, Daresbury)

£2.00 including refreshments

### 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](mailto:halkyn18@gmail.com)

### Flintshire U3A Committee Members

<b>Chair</b>	Alan Harris	<b>01352 700062</b>	<b>Website Manager</b>	Chris Winner	<b>01244 550381</b>
<b>Vice Chair</b>			<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	"	<b>01244 550381</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Elen Williams	<b>01352 752174</b>	<b>Other Committee Members</b>	Jerry Carter	<b>01244 546529</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	Elaine Ingman	<b>01352 740704</b>		Gill Causer	<b>01352 713972</b>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Lesley Roberts	<b>01352 840532</b>		Marie Edwards	<b>01352 752844</b>
<b>Publicity</b>	Sandra Hulland	<b>01244 818384</b>		John House	<b>01352 720860</b>
				Carol Williams	<b>01244 836049</b>