

Flintshire **U3A** Newsletter

Volume 10 Issue 5

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Flintshire U3A - Friendship & Fun through Lifelong Learning

Website: www.flintshire-u3a.co.ukEmail: flintshireu3a@gmail.com

Paris trip

This was a wonderful trip with an exceptionally skilled driver, Richard, who took good care of us. The Diamond Tours itinerary was excellent enabling us to see and do many varied things accompanied by the provided Tour Guide. On Sunday morning we were taken on a coach tour with Richard negotiating the city with ease, showing us the main sights of Notre Dame, Eiffel Tower, Louvre etc. Then on to Versailles in glorious sunshine to walk the gardens and see the numerous fountains 'dancing,' to music with rainbows above them. The Anish Kapoor sculptures scattered around added a different dimension to the garden. Some of us braved the long queues to visit the house which has 700 rooms! I guess Marie Antoinette didn't have to do the cleaning! Monday morning we were up and away to Montmartre where streets are steep and full of colourful shops. Some of us walked up, others took the funicular or land train enjoying the spectacular white outline of the Sacre Coeur church which stands above the city. It was built as a war memorial to the French soldiers killed during the Franco -Prussian war and completed in 1914. Back in Paris we went on an afternoon river cruise on the Seine which has twenty two bridges. Monday evening we returned to Paris to visit the Montparnasse Tower going up 54 floors in the lift to view the city at night. The Eiffel Tower was spectacular at eight o'clock when the lights were switched on. Richard then took us to Dorothy's restaurant where we enjoyed a lovely meal and entertainment which was great fun. Some of the ladies did the Can Canfuture new U3A group? Tuesday was a free day and we were taken and collected from Paris which gave us time to explore further. Sadly Wednesday came too soon but a great time was had by all. Judith we do appreciate all the hard work you put into arranging this memorable Paris break which was excellent value. Thank You



From the Editor

Hi Everyone. Thank you to all who have contributed an article for this publication. It is so interesting to read of trips foreign and at home especially! I also enjoyed the cycling for softies feature though not enough to join personally! (Sorry Barry.)

With the winter fast closing in, there are many different groups to choose from, to help pass those dark days! I will be joining a few myself! Remember the Christmas Event is fast approaching. (Seven weeks!) See you there. Visit the website for details of events and trips out as well. A Merry Christmas to all! Please submit contributions for the Newsletter before **January 15th 2016**

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ADVANCE NOTICE

2016 Subscriptions are due before 1st March 2016.

With the current membership approaching 700, it would be helpful to spread the arrival of renewal payments over a couple of months. I will, therefore, be happy to process any renewals at £10 (with S.A.E.) from December 1st onwards. Remember that any renewals paid after March 1st will be £12. (No Exceptions)

Please send to:

Flintshire U3A Membership Secretary,
24 St Peter's Park, Northop, Flintshire, CH7 6DP



Cycling for Softies- Barry

As a U3A group, "Cycling for Softies" is a very low key affair. Being "softies", we don't need much of an excuse NOT to go out at all.

It would be good if new members could be found to inject a little less softness and a bit more cycling. The idea is to go out for a couple of hours, starting from an agreed point, then a brief stop for refreshments about half way.

Owing to more family commitments I am not always able to go myself, so a new coordinator would be welcomed. Not a lot is required - no money to collect - not much organisation - easy really.

Usually everything stops over the winter, so 2016 would be a good time to start afresh. Anybody willing and able is invited to contact Barry (01352 741 836) for further details (if there are any !!)



Diary Dates - at a glance

Open Talk: Friday, 6th November - Gardening Group

Open Talk: Thursday, 12th November - Armchair Travellers

Open Talk: Tuesday, 17th November - Art Appreciation

FU3A Christmas Social - Friday December 4th , 7pm at New Brighton Community Centre

Post Christmas coffee morning - Wednesday December 30h , 10am at New Brighton Community Centre

Advance notice

The Annual General meeting will be held on

Thursday 3rd March 2016



Social Event: - FU3A New Year Celebration Lunch, Wednesday, January 13th 2016 at the Beaufort Park Hotel - download the menu and booking form from the website.



U3A Thursday Dining Group - John

The Thursday Dining Group has been established for seven years and meets on the first Thursday every other month. We try and get a three course meal for about £20 and ideally within ten miles of Mold. We are an informal group and have kept the number of members to around twenty people so that it is possible to get to know everybody else and enjoy some good food and a chat! We have enjoyed visiting many different eating establishments and had a good variety of meals.

All members get an opportunity to organise a meal and a programme is established every year. If you would like to join us or want more details then contact:

John Elwyn on: 01352752174 or email john.elwyn@btinternet.com

Self help Camera Club. Image taken by Mike Bolton.



Digital Camera- Self Help Group - David

As you might gather from our group's title, we are a bunch of people who enjoy getting together, taking photographs and, somewhere along the way, doing our best to help each other towards some level of competence with a camera. Some members of the group, it has to be said, are pretty nifty both with the camera and at using photo editing software to improve or modify the results; however, the essence of the group is that they should give the benefit of their expertise to the other members in an informal and totally uncompetitive setting.

We meet twice a month, once indoors, and once outside when we go careering off to somewhere interesting to have a 'photo shoot'. We are fortunate in being able to use the board room at Padeswood Cement Works for our indoor sessions. This is very comfortable and equipped with an overhead projector – ideal for our purposes.

Past venues for our photo shoots have varied from Burton RSPB Reserve to Manchester Airport, where an intrepid group of us ended up alongside Runway 23L trying to capture winged objects of a rather different order of size, and getting our ears blasted into the bargain. Our last planned visit was to Port Sunlight which was just a little quieter. Occasionally, when the chosen subject is best served by working individually rather than as a group, we will use the time to 'do our own thing'. The photograph which is shown above was one which a member, Mike Bolton took when we recently decided to have a go at reflections.

We are always happy to welcome new members. You don't need a camera which weighs as much as a house brick and sports a lens which could be mistaken for a field gun – we have seen some cracking photos taken with a mobile phone. The only qualification is that you like taking photographs and are free on a Monday afternoon. David. Contact phone numbers etc on website.

Quote: I refuse to join a club that would have me as a member! Groucho Marx

Social History Group - Brian

Recently a party from the Social History section visited a splendid mansion at Plas Newydd, Llangollen (see photograph), when a guided talk and tour was fully enjoyed by members. This is the third outing/visit to places of local interest which has taken place over the Summer period. This is a policy I intend to continue in the New Year with visits to such places. Suggestions / ideas for future visits from any members would be most welcome and hopefully be included in a future programme.

Our last meeting of the year takes place on Monday 7th December 2015 when our speaker will be Mark Baker who is speaking to us on the Medieval Houses of North Wales, with a special interest in Plas Teg & Gwyrch Castle.

The plans for next year's programme are at an advanced stage and a copy will be available to Members very shortly.



New U3A Appointments - Alan

Our warmest congratulations go to Hilary Jones on becoming the new Trustee for Wales, after this year's National U3A elections. Hilary was formerly Chair of Flintshire U3A for three years and more recently Chair of the North Wales Network of U3As.

The latter position will now be filled by our previous chair, Gill Causer.



Both will bring knowledge, energy, enthusiasm and good humour to their respective jobs, and we wish them all the very best in their endeavours.

Our picture shows Hilary ready to take up her duties!

Material Girls - Ruth

Material Girls, Flintshire U3A's Needlework Group celebrated their 1st Birthday in October by throwing a party for its members and guests.

Entertainment for the afternoon included a themed quiz, 'fat quarter' bingo, a group sewing challenge and a delicious afternoon tea. Also there for everyone to admire was a display of work that had been completed by members over the last 12 months.

In November the group are holding a Sewing Bee for the day and early December will be celebrating Xmas at the restaurant at Abakhan.

The group welcomes all those interested in any kind of needlework whether it is sewing, knitting, crochet, embroidery or cross stitch to name a few! We already have lots of ideas for 2016 and it looks like it will be an exciting second year. If you would like a taster session or more information please give Ruth a call on 01352 733608.



HUMOUR GROUP

"There is nothing in the world so irresistibly contagious as laughter and good humour."
Charles Dickens: "A Christmas Carol"

What makes you laugh? What makes other people laugh.

Interested in Humour?

Why not join some like minded people and consider starting an FU3A Group which has Humour (and Laughter) in its many guises as a basis.

Humour Groups run in many U3As. The Third Age Trust National Adviser on Humour has offered help and advice. If formed, we would be the first such group in Wales

Sounds good to you? If so, let me know and I will arrange a "get together" to consider feasibility and ideas.

John Yates 01352 751881

German Group News - Elizabeth

On 25th August the German group welcomed Alastair Sharp, the U3A National Adviser for German, to their meeting. He was touring the country visiting as many U3A German groups as possible in order to get a better picture of how they operated and how he might best help them. Our members much enjoyed talking with him and hearing how he had come to learn German as an adult especially as we had already benefited from his advice regarding course books. He has also set up an e-mail forum for group leaders and as an indirect result of this I discovered that there is a German-speaking social group for all ages which meets fortnightly in Chester which I and one or two other members of the group have now joined as well. There we have met a number of native German speakers, one of whom has kindly agreed to come to talk with us at one of our meetings in the near future. Such conversational practice with someone who has the language as their mother tongue is invaluable for aiding fluency which is what many learners struggle to achieve.

The picture below shows some of the group at our new meeting venue in Tesco, Wrexham, with Alastair Sharp (seated in the middle wearing the pink sweater).



At our 22nd September meeting we also welcomed our latest new member who promises to be an enthusiastic addition to the group and brings our number up to nine. Anyone else who would like to join us is invited to contact me by phone (01978 854519) or email - elizabeth.pettitt@dsl.pipex.com

Archaeology Group - James

Our summer site visits commenced on June 1st with a fascinating tour of the Great Orme Bronze Age Copper Mine, followed by a visit to St. Tudno's 12th century church and later to a Neolithic cromlech (burial chamber).

On the 24th June 16 members enjoyed a guided tour of the Poulton Research Project's archaeological dig site. This site covers 6000 years of occupation. We were shown the current excavations of several Iron Age roundhouses; Roman



ditches; foundations of the Medieval Chapel and its graveyard from which over 700 skeletons have been excavated. This was followed by a visit to the small but interesting on site museum.

Other visits included excavations at Hen Caerwys (Medieval platform houses); Moely-Gaer hillfort at Bodfari; Penycloddiau Hillfort and Price's Pottery in Buckley.

Our Autumn/Winter talks at New Brighton commence on 28th September with a talk on the excavations at Lynx Cave near Llanferres. Anyone interested in joining the group is welcome to come along for a 'taster' Contact details are on website.



Flintshire U3A Committee Members

Chair	Alan Harris	01352 700062	Website Manager	Chris Winner	01244 550381
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Treasurer	Elen Williams	01352 752174	Other Committee Members	Jerry Carter	01244 546529
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