

# Flintshire **U3A** Newsletter

Volume 11 Issue 5

November 2016

*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)

## It's Christmas!



**U3A Christmas Social - Friday 2<sup>nd</sup> December at Connah's Quay Civic Hall. Doors open at 6.30. Music provided by our very own, brilliant Belle Plates Group. Refreshments will be served.**

**Tickets on sale throughout Oct and Nov.**

**Email [mtpcedwards@btinternet.com](mailto:mtpcedwards@btinternet.com)**

**or tel 01352 752844. Please state which main group you attend.**

### Diary Dates

**Open Meeting Thursday  
2<sup>nd</sup> February, at the Civic  
Centre, Connah's Quay**

**Newsletter**  
Please submit  
contributions for the  
Newsletter before  
January 15th

**Thanks**

**Contacts:**  
**Website Manager**  
**Chris Winner**  
Email:  
[fu3awebsite@gmail.com](mailto:fu3awebsite@gmail.com)  
**Newsletter Editor**

**Julie Harvey**  
[fu3anewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:fu3anewsletter@gmail.com)

### Post Christmas Coffee Morning

**Thursday, December 29th 10:00 - 12 noon**

**Our Lady of the Rosary Church Hall**

**Jubilee Road, Buckley**



### Membership renewal reminder

Please note that the £10 membership fee is due by the 28<sup>th</sup> February.

Payment by cheque is preferred and can be sent, together with enclosed slip, or handed in at the following meetings.

#### Membership Renewal meetings

9.01.17	Social History	12.01.17	Armchair Travellers
17.01.17	Art Appreciation	23.01.17	Archaeology
02.02.17	Open Meeting	06.02.17	Social History
09.02.17	Armchair Travellers	21.02.17	Art Appreciation
	27.02.17	Archaeology	



## An Afternoon of Crime in Hawarden! - Lesley

On a very pleasant Sunday afternoon in early September a small group of members of Reading Group 6 got together to hear a talk by renowned crime writer Val McDermid. The event was part of the Gladfest Literary Festival, now in its 4th year and held in the lovely setting of Gladstone's Library in Hawarden. The original title of the talk was "Who cares who killed Roger Ackroyd?" – a reference of course to the Agatha Christie novel – but Val M.

announced at the beginning of her talk that she'd changed it, and instead talked about the development of the crime novel from the 'cosy' country house settings popular in the early and mid 20<sup>th</sup> Century to the present day. Her own genre is evidently sometimes referred to as 'Tartan Noir' and she discussed various other novelists who, like her, have developed characters with a strong identity, often using the same environment and with accurate references to and 'feel' for the place in which they're set. She was a very fluent speaker – lively and easy to listen to – and the talk was well prepared and put together. She was generous in her praise of other contemporary writers, finding much to admire in a lot of their work. Her only misgiving about current trends, is that she hopes that the use of forensics and technology in crime detection doesn't dominate books to the extent that it takes precedence over good plot and character development. The hour passed extremely quickly – always the sign of a good speaker.

The Gladfest programme as a whole (it's held over 2 days,) was very varied and interesting and its ability to attract writers of the calibre of Val McDermid can only enhance its reputation. When it comes round again next year, I'd really recommend taking a look at what's on offer so close to home. From previous experience, I've found that many of the writers who aren't household names are also extremely interesting to listen to, and in a small, un-pressured setting. I've thoroughly enjoyed going to the festival at Hay on Wye a couple of times, but this is certainly a less busy way to access good writers and speakers. The food's good too!

Our reading group is shortly to say goodbye to one of our founder members – Celia - who's leaving the area. We'd like to wish her well and thank her for the pleasure of her company over the years.

Her departure leaves another space in our group and we'd be very happy to welcome anyone who'd like to join. We meet every 3<sup>rd</sup> Tuesday in Buckley Library, (with the option of also going in the nearby well known brand coffee shop,) and we're very welcoming and friendly! We read a wide range of books suggested by group members, - please get in touch if you'd like to consider joining.

Coordinator is Chris - [sunnycroftstrytisa@btinternet.com](mailto:sunnycroftstrytisa@btinternet.com) or phone me – Lesley - on 01352 840532.

### **A classic example of international U3A friendship and fun.- Ken and Val**

"On the 1st September we enjoyed the regular bi monthly FU3A Thursday dining and then had the privilege of joining, also very friendly, September Dining of the Madeira U3A on 30th whilst staying with our friends who live permanently on the Island.

Apart from a personal "Thank you" card, we left as Tokens of our appreciation of the Dining groups hospitality, a hard copy of the recent Newsletter and a U3A diary for 2017. Also we took the liberty of giving our new Madeira friends an open Invitation to join any of our groups should they be in this area at any time in the future.

Dear All,

It was a pleasure and a surprise to welcome Pat and Ken to our monthly Dinner Club here in Madeira. So nice to hear about the other 'half' and what your members are up to. The September Newsletter, which Pat will certainly pass this on to our Secretary. In particular I would like to thank you for your 2017 Diary, a lovely memento which will be used on a daily basis.

If any of you are planning to visit us here in Madeira do not hesitate to make contact with our Secretary, Rosalind, or myself at the email [sandybecker@netmadeira.com](mailto:sandybecker@netmadeira.com)

Kind Regards,

Sandy.



Quote; —May Peace be your gift at Christmas and your blessing all year through.

## Social History - Brian

The social History group goes from strength to strength with attendance numbers reaching three figures at most meetings and enjoying interesting topics presented by good and interesting speakers.

Over the Spring and Summer of 2016 three visits and outings to places of local interest have been organised. All were well attended and judging by the feedback, fully enjoyed by all. These were Nantclwydy Dre, Chester Cathedral and two Quay River Tours. Four boats were filled over two days and the trip went from Connah's Quay to Handbridge Weir. (See image.) The programme for 2017 is nearing completion and we hope for another successful year as has been enjoyed this year.

One meeting will require a change of venue to Connah's Quay Civic Centre to accommodate a well known famous speaker. Details to follow nearer the time.

All U3A members are welcome to attend any meeting.



## U3A Walking group - John Elwyn



In recent years the Friday walking group has organised a weekend away and this year we went to Dovedale in the Peak District, a HF Holiday house that was the old Peveril of the Peak hotel. Full board was provided with the house in a superb location at the end of Dovedale with many walks possible from the house.

This year we all met lunchtime at a pub (where else!) on Friday in Thorpe where we had a nice meal. A short walk was organised for the afternoon to the bottom of Dovedale where many of us walked across the river on the stepping stones before returning to the house. Saturday was the longest walk starting from the house, first to Milldale where two members of the group joined to walk all the way along Dovedale. Many sights were seen on the way including Lover's Leap, Twelve Apostles and Llam rock before returning to the house. On Sunday we walked part of the Tissington Trail on the old railway line and went to see Tissington Hall, the old manor house. Some wanted an early departure on Monday with others walking to nearby Ilam Hall that is now a Youth Hostel and walked through the Country Park. Sunny weather was had through the weekend with only a little drizzle lunchtime on Saturday. We all returned to Flintshire a little tired after a memorable weekend in the Peak District national park.

## MONTRER ET RACONTER - Noreen



(Advanced French "Show and Tell")Borrowing an idea from a successful Armchair Travellers session, members of the Advanced French group all brought an item to a recent meeting to talk about.

So many fascinating stories - some humorous, some nostalgic, some factual were related and much new vocabulary was used and learned.

Some of the many items produced were a ticket plus a souvenir white handkerchief from a Pavarotti concert, a chunk of lava from a volcano in Iceland, a cigarette box made out of the same marble as the Taj Mahal, a vase purchased in West Berlin and driven back through East Germany, a lavender teddy bear, a decorated Native Indian wooden plate from America and a photograph from an Alpine adventure.

Choose us as your  
Co-op local cause



We are in competition with two other local charities for funding for our 'Words, Music and Song' Group. If you are a Co-op member, please choose Flintshire U3A every time you shop at the Mold and Leeswood stores until the end of March 2017

## The 2017 FU3A New Year Lunch

will take place at the  
Celtic Arms, Northop, CH7 6WA  
on January 18th 2017



Arrive 12:00 for 12:30

Three Courses plus coffee/tea and mints £18.50 (includes tip).

For details and booking form see website or contact Elen on 01352 752174

### Walking and Outdoor Navigation Course- Marie

if you are keen on walking in the outdoors and if you are interested in learning map and compass navigation then this could be a useful group to join.

The sessions will take place at Sychdyn Memorial Hall on the 3rd Wed of the month 2pm to 3.30 and the sessions can accommodate twelve people.

An introductory meeting will take place in the coffee bar at Theatre Clwyd on the Wed 26th October at 2pm and this will outline the course content and answer any questions.

The first planned meeting will be Wed 16th November.

The course instructors will be Roger Smith and Marie Edwards. Email or phone Marie if you are interested 01352 752844 or [mtpedwards@btinternet.com](mailto:mtpedwards@btinternet.com)

### Flintshire U3A Committee Members

<b>Chair</b>	<b>Chris Winner</b>	<b>01244 550381</b>	<b>Website Manager</b>	<b>Chris Winner</b>	<b>01244 550381</b>
<b>Vice Chair</b>	<b>John Tiplady</b>	<b>01244 534394</b>	<b>Social Events</b>	<b>Marie Edwards</b>	<b>01352 752844</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	<b>Elen Williams</b>	<b>01352 752174</b>	<b>Other Committee Members</b>	<b>Jerry Carter</b>	<b>01244 546529</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	<b>Elaine Ingman</b>	<b>01352 740704</b>		<b>John Hornby</b>	<b>01352 741811</b>
<b>Membership Secretary</b>	<b>Lesley Roberts</b>	<b>01352 840532</b>		<b>Philip Johnson</b>	<b>01352 700850</b>
<b>Enquires</b>	<b>John House</b>	<b>01244 818384</b>		<b>Alan Harris</b>	<b>01352 700062</b>