

# Flintshire U3A Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 5

November 2014

## Flintshire U3A - Friendship & Fun through Lifelong Learning

Website: [www.flintshire-u3a.co.uk](http://www.flintshire-u3a.co.uk)

### Message from the Chair

This may seem rather early but as this is the last publication before Christmas I would like to wish all our members and their families 'Best Wishes for the festive season and a Happy and Healthy New Year'.

2014 has been another very successful year, thanks to our Committee Members, Co-ordinators and all our willing Volunteers. I hope that you will all continue to enjoy the friendship of our U3A in 2015.

*Gill Causer*

### ADVANCE NOTICE

2014 Subscriptions are due on  
1<sup>st</sup> March 2015.

With the current membership approaching 650, 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 January 1st onwards. Remember that any renewals paid after March 1<sup>st</sup> will be £12. (No Exceptions)

Please send to:

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

### New Year Lunch



Come and join us for our New Year Celebration  
Lunch

Wednesday 14<sup>th</sup> January 2015  
The Beaufort, New Brighton

Cost £16.00

The menu and booking forms are available online.  
Please return form stating choice for all courses plus  
cheque for £16.00 per person made payable to Flintshire  
U3A.  
c/o. Elen Williams, 5 Hafan Deg, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 1YX.

### Diary Dates:

Dec. 5<sup>th</sup> - Christmas Social

Dec. 30<sup>th</sup> - Coffee Morning

Jan. 14<sup>th</sup> - New Year Lunch

Feb. 4<sup>th</sup> - Open Meeting

Mar. 4<sup>th</sup> - A.G.M.

### Newsletter:

Please submit  
contributions for the  
February Newsletter before  
January 18<sup>th</sup>.

### Contacts:

Website Manager,  
Carol Williams

Email:  
[fu3awebsite@gmail.com](mailto:fu3awebsite@gmail.com)

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Chris Winner

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### ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING 2014

Flintshire U3A will be holding its AGM on Wednesday 4<sup>th</sup> March 2015 at New Brighton Community Centre. There will be a talk on  
**'My Gap Year at 60 in the Outback' Angela Parry.**

There will be vacancies for Chairman and Committee Members. Nomination forms are available on line or from Elaine Ingman and should be completed and returned to her at [secretaryfu3a@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryfu3a@gmail.com) or **Awel y Mynydd, Cilcain Rd, Pantymwyn, Mold, Flintshire, CH7 5NJ**, by 27<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

Any item for discussion at the AGM must be submitted in writing to [secretaryfu3a@gmail.com](mailto:secretaryfu3a@gmail.com) before Friday 16<sup>th</sup> February. The minutes of the 2014 AGM will be available on the website from 30<sup>th</sup> January 2015.

**If you are interested in joining the Committee and would like more information please contact Gill Causer 01352 713972.**

### Christmas Social 2014



The Christmas Social 2014 will take place on  
December 5<sup>th</sup> from 7pm - 10pm  
at the New Brighton Community Centre  
The social is open to all members of FU3A.



Tickets - £2 will be available at the Open Meeting or from Sue: 01352 754903  
Come along for an evening of entertainment (from our members) fun and frivolity!

### Theatre Group visit to Liverpool - *Maureen*

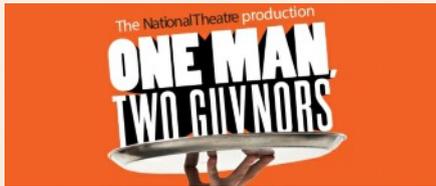
Our third outing was to see the acclaimed National Theatre production of "One Man and Two Guvnors" based on The Servant of Two Masters by Carlo Goldini.

Prior to curtain up, we were entertained by a 60's pop group, who were dressed in sharp suits, with short back and sides haircuts. They then played throughout the production between scenes.

The play is a glorious celebration of British comedy a unique laugh out loud mix of satire songs, slapstick and glittering one-liners.

There were energetic and acrobatic performance by some of the actors but most of us felt the actor portraying Albert the waiter's role was the most challenging poor chap was head butted by doors and other items on numerous occasions.

So far the plays we have seen have all been very different and our future plans continue in the same vein, so why not join us for one that takes your fancy.



### 'FRAUD AND SCAMS: AWARENESS AND PREVENTION'



Come and hear:  
**Sheena Smyth**  
**Fraud Prevention Manager at HSBC Bank PLC**  
 at  
**New Brighton Community Centre**  
 on  
**November 10<sup>th</sup> at 14:30**  
**£1 including refreshments.**

### Gardening Group - Open Talks

The talks take place at 14:30 in New Brighton Community Centre  
 A charge of £2 is made at each talk to cover the cost of the venue and tea and cakes!



November 7th  
 Our AONB - David Shiel



December 5th  
 The Natural History of Christmas -  
 Dr Goronwy Wynne

Philip: [philip194johnson@btinternet.com](mailto:philip194johnson@btinternet.com)

### Do you enjoy a game of chess? If you do why not join the Chess Group!

The Chess Group are looking for a new co-ordinator! If you would just like to join or take on the role please contact **Barrie: 01352 752418**

### Archaeology Group - *Hilary*

#### Have you seen the Pillar of Eliseg?



Next time you go to Llangollen, stop just outside the town, near Valle Crucis Abbey and go and look at the pillar. Why? Because it is unique.

Professor Howard Williams, from Chester University Archaeology Department explained the history behind the pillar to the Archaeology group, recently in a fascinating talk. He explained it was erected in the early 9<sup>th</sup> century to commemorate the

various generations of the ruling house of Powys. It has a very long Latin inscription on it making it an historical document as well. Our ancestors may not have known that the mound they put it on was a 3000 year old bronze Age barrow but they certainly knew it was an ancient site probably for assembly. A dig conducted by Bangor and Chester in 2010 - 2012 revealed that it was a kerbed cairn with several cists (burials) in it.

Why not come along to the next meeting at NBCC on 24<sup>th</sup> November at 10.00 when Dr Rachel Pope will talk about recent excavations at Eddisbury and Pen y Cloddiau hillforts. We don't meet in December but at the 26<sup>th</sup> January meeting, Dr Felicity Davies will be talking about Lithic Technology. I am sure you will find both talks fascinating and all FU3A members are welcome.

### Fun in the Sun! - *Chris*

A look back to the balmy days of summer at the Colomendy Picnic!

A great afternoon spent in the company friends. The weather was very kind to us, the entertainment provided by by The Belle Plates Ringers was superb!



## Art Appreciation - Ysceifiog Away Day - John



In August we had our usual Summer gallery visit. We didn't have to go far to find some inspiring work and informative, insightful speaking by two regional artists who are still living and working.

The artists were Malcolm Taylor and Andrew Coomber. They covered representational and abstract art, silver-smith and jewellery making and, most importantly, some insight into how they think and create their work, both to follow their own imagination and working to commission i.e. how the artist's mind works.

Malcolm, from Newton-le-Willows in Lancashire, described his long-held hobby in art which has now become a post-retirement career. He explained how he started with still-life, portraits and landscapes and moved into abstracts. He displayed much of his work on-screen and in the flesh, along with sketchbooks. He described his current work as paintings that don't need, or have, explanations – 'they just exist'. It was fascinating to see pictures of his studio and how he works (with tools we've never even heard of) and how his surroundings provide

inspiration. His dry Northern wit took no prisoners.

Andrew is based in Ysceifiog and described his career, including his education and inspiration leading him into silversmith work and jewellery; and a move from his native Edinburgh to Manchester and now to North Wales. He described how he fulfilled commissions such as to create a chalice with which Pope John Paul delivered communion on his visit to Edinburgh in 1982, then to make a crown for the National Eisteddfod in 2013.

He revealed how form must follow the Client's required brief, but must incorporate features to facilitate its intended use. Art meets Engineering. He later showed us around his studio. Much work in progress – not just silversmithery but paintings and other objet d'art.

The weather was kind that day and we were able to explore Ysceifiog Parish Church and the Fox pub.

A timeline illustrating local history from the Bronze Age to the present day was/is on permanent display in the Hall – and a film made for the recent Arts Festival. Everyone brought their own picnics supported by the usual suspects at the tea/coffee bar.

### More Men Needed!

Singing for Pleasure need more men! Please contact Freda on 01352 751083 if you can help!

### Basic Welsh Group Barge Trip - Meg

They say that the sun shines on the righteous. So it was with the Welsh Leaner's Group, when they set sail ar cwch fflat 'The Tommy' on a very sunny Monday. What an interesting journey; Pontcysyllte Aqueduct; tunnels; Lime Kilns and History. Plus a fantastic lunch. There was 'Lot, lot o siarad' sadly not all in Welsh!! Diolch Vera for organising the trip.



### ~ Wine of the Month - Barry ~



**A Red! But oh what a red!**  
A wine for the connoisseur. Bought in France for €9.95 from Domaine St Just Clos Martin at Saumur/Champigny. It may be tricky to get it over here but it would be well worth the effort! Not too heavy at 13% but great in all other respects!

[http://www.st-just.net/en/index\\_en.php](http://www.st-just.net/en/index_en.php)

Did you miss the North Wales Study Day this year?  
Do you wish you had gone?

**Celtic Music and Myths** are coming to Flintshire on the **13th May 2015**

### ~ MEMBERS' CORNER ~

#### Dubious Emails - Chris

I recently received a suspicious email (and I believe other members have too) which included the words Flintshire U3A in the subject line. When I checked the email address it was obviously not from FU3A but someone in the orient.

I didn't open the email, I blocked the sender and then deleted the email.

I would advise members to always look at the subject line and glance at the email address of the sender before opening an email. If the email address looks suspicious delete the email.

### Science Group Open Talks - Philip

Tuesday 10 February at 2.30pm

Methodist Church Hall, Mold

Dr Gari Louhelainen

'Genetic Analysis of Unknown Populations

'How to establish hair, eye and skin colour from a skull, and other stories'

Tuesday 14 April at 2.30pm

Methodist Church Hall

Alan Brown

Science and Technology Facility, Daresbury

'Earth and the Universe'

## “Why do they call it rush hour when nothing moves?” Robin Williams

### Away Day to Dunham Massey - Mary

Once again the sun shone on the Away Days Group's outing to the World War I Stamford Memorial Hospital at Dunham Massey. Our first stop, as always, was the café to fortify ourselves before we commenced the self-guided tour of the Hospital.



The re-creation of the Hospital is based on original records from the House's archives; opening in April 1917 and closing in February 1919, one of 3,244 auxiliary hospitals created during the Great War. There were 57 beds with 282 soldiers finding sanctuary from the horrors of the trenches through medical treatment, plenty of fresh air and the quiet of the countryside. A cup of tea and a cigarette also helped!

Lady Stamford played a large part in the management of the hospital (from the summer parlour) whilst her daughter, Lady Jane Grey played an active role in the nursing of the patients including assisting in brain surgery on one of the soldiers. We saw a recreation of this operation, including blood oozing onto the pillow! We passed through a recreated ward with beds, lockers and other artefacts the patients would have kept with them. One of the original beds, lockers and bed coverings were on display and were used as the template for furniture displayed in the ward.



Whilst passing through the ward, recreation room, and other rooms associated with the soldiers' and nurses' lives, actors re-enacted conversations that might have taken place between doctors and nurses and Lady Jane and her brother, Roger Grey, 10<sup>th</sup> Earl

Stamford. We were asked not to speak to them as they were “ghosts”. Later in our tour of the Hall we walked through rooms showing how the family lived and some of their beautiful possessions.

Free time after the tour brought us back to today's real world. Some of us wandered through the gardens and others joined a guided walk through the Park and finally...

back to the café for a cup of tea and for some, indulging in one of DM's enormous scones with jam and cream (delicious!) before hastening to the coach for our return home.



### Theatre Away Day Group - Gill

We have booked seats for the Welsh National Opera's performance of **The Magic Flute** at Venue Cymru on Thursday 12th March 2015 starting at 7.15pm.

The cost will be £31.50. If you are interested in joining us please contact **Elisabeth** by no later than **25th November on 01352 754519**.

No refunds will be given if you have to cancel it will be your responsibility to 'sell on' your ticket.

Transport arrangements will be 'car share'.



venue  
cymru  
LLANGUANO

### Film Group



After the Summer break the next season of film screenings begins on Tuesday 30th September at a new venue and a new time. Films will now be shown at Eleanor House, Shotton Lane, Shotton, post code for sat nav users is CH5 1QU. The new time is 2pm. Look forward to seeing current members and hopefully new ones too at our new venue. **Contact: David on 07803162230**

**Tuesday 11th November**

**Robert Newton, Celia Johnson in This Happy Breed**

**Tuesday 25th November**

**Helen Mirren, Martin Sheen in The Queen**

**Tuesday 6th December**

**Judy Garland, Margaret O'Brien in Meet Me in St Louis**

**Tuesday 6th December**

**Albert Finney, Edith Evans, Alec Guinness in Scrooge**

### Flintshire U3A Committee Members

<b>Chair</b>	Gill Causer	<b>01352 713972</b>	<b>Publicity</b>	Sandra Hulland	<b>01244 818384</b>
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Alan Harris	<b>01352 700062</b>	<b>Website Manager</b>	Carol Williams	<b>01244 836049</b>
<b>Treasurer</b>	Elen Williams	<b>01352 752174</b>	<b>Newsletter Editor</b>	Chris Winner	<b>01244 550381</b>
<b>Secretary</b>	Elaine Ingman	<b>01352 740704</b>	<b>Other Committee Members</b>	Leslie Willis	<b>01978 861482</b>
<b>Membership Secretary (Co-opted)</b>	Lesley Roberts	<b>01352 840532</b>		Jerry Carter	<b>01244 546529</b>
				John House	<b>01352 720860</b>