

# Flintshire **U3A** Newsletter

Volume 9 Issue 4

September 2014

## Flintshire U3A - Friendship & Fun through Lifelong Learning

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

### Message from the Chairman

Have you visited our new website? Thanks to Chris's hard work and the support from some of our members who contributed with suggestions, we launched our website at the end of July.

We have not included the List of Group's with this edition as the Committee has agreed that an updated list will only be published with every alternate newsletter. The list on the website is always up to date as any changes are made as soon as the information is received. Articles are included in this edition about the New Groups which are being set up in September.

I hope that you have enjoyed the summer and are looking forward to joining in the autumn programme. Planning is already underway for our Christmas Social on the 5<sup>th</sup> December and we will be announcing the date shortly for our New Year Lunch. **Gill Causer**

### Diary Dates:

Nov. 5<sup>th</sup> - Open MeetingDec. 5<sup>th</sup> Christmas Event

**Newsletter:**  
Please submit contributions for the November Newsletter before October 20<sup>th</sup>.

### Contacts:

**Website Manager,**  
**Carol Williams**

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

**Newsletter Editor,**  
**Chris Winner**

Email:  
[fu3anewsletter@gmail.com](mailto:fu3anewsletter@gmail.com)

### NOTICE - Computing Group

The next meeting will be at 10:30 on 8th September to discuss our future venue and programme and for our computing sessions. Contribute your ideas about what you need to learn, and enjoy the fun of "taming that thing" instead of wanting to throw it out of the window when it misbehaves!

**Contact:**  
**Chris 01244550381 or**  
**Sandra 01244 818384**  
**for more information**

### Our Llys Eleanor Legacy - from Palate to Palette - Philip



Last autumn, after 5 years of providing fresh produce to the residents' restaurant, the team had to acknowledge that the physicality of working on the allotment was becoming too much of a challenge.

However, we wanted to continue our relationship, and the idea of a sensory garden was born. Funding was obtained, and low maintenance perennial shrubs were identified from the RHS 'Perfect for Pollinators' list, supplemented with cuttings from Mostyn Hall gardens.

Planting commenced in March, and everything has flourished, resulting in a profusion of colour and scent, with bees and butterflies abounding. The maintenance work is primarily light weeding, and the team would welcome new members to share the enjoyment.

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



### Friday night is Quiz Night!



Little grey cells need a work-out?

Try the FU3A Quiz night, every month on the third Friday of the month at the Grosvenor Hall, (aka Darby and Joan), Mold. Prompt start at 19.30

**Be astounded at how much you know,**  
**(and how much you have yet to learn!).**

**Marvel at the extravagant prizes and the erudition of others,** (whilst plotting your revenge when you set the questions!!).

More information?

**Contact: Alan 01352 700062**



### \* A Little Reminder \*

If you are a new member wishing to attend a group or you are a member of a group but are unable to attend, please contact the group co-ordinator to let them know.



### Next Memory Course (4 Sessions)

The timing and venue:  
Pantymwyn Village Hall from 10:00 - 12.00 noon, cost £16

13th October, Monday  
27th October, Monday  
12th November, Wednesday  
24th November, Monday

Please contact: Linda on 01352 742146 or Angela on 01352 770135 for more information.

Further courses will be arranged subject to demand.

## The New FU3A Website is Live



The new FU3A website is up and running.  
The address hasn't changed it's still -

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

The new look site has buttons with 'drop down' menus to enable faster access to the pages you are looking for.

There is now a **WHAT'S NEW** button on the home page which links straight to the **WHAT'S NEW** page, this replaces the *Latest News* page on the old site.

The site also includes a **SEARCH** facility, some new pages e.g. separate pages for **AWAY DAYS**, **OPEN MEETINGS**, **OPEN TALKS** and **SOCIAL EVENTS** accessed from the drop down menu from the **WHAT'S ON** button.

There is now a **CONTACTS** page and a page for **COORDINATORS**, which is currently being developed.

As well as the new main photo **GALLERY** there are group galleries, an **AWAY DAYS** and a new **FU3A MOVIES** gallery.

**If when you go to the FU3A website you still see the old site try again and the new site will load, it may take a couple of goes. The new home page will load eventually.**

### 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!



October 3rd  
The Cottage Garden Society - Sue Griffiths



November 7th  
Our AONB - David Shiel



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

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

### \*New Group\*

#### Fun French for Beginners

A beginners group, to help people enjoy their French visits and holidays, Learn in a fun, relaxed and informal atmosphere.

**Start Date: September 11<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**The group will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday  
from 10:00 - 12:00 in**

**Flint Library  
Church Street,  
Flint  
CH6 5AP**

**Coordinator: Garry on 01352 733608**

### \*New Group\*

#### Needlework

A new group of mixed ability who aim to cover cross stitch, embroidery, dressmaking, knitting, crochet and small sewing projects. We welcome new members to our friendly informal group.

**Start Date: September 9<sup>th</sup> 2014**

**The group will meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday  
from 14:00 - 16:00 in**

**Bagillt Community Centre  
High Street  
Bagillt  
CH6 6AP**

**Coordinator: Ruth 01352 733608**

### Quilt Group - Carol, Angela, Carole and Hilary

Our Quilt Group have been supporting Claire House Hospice, with quilts, playmates and cushions, made by the members for the children, with life limiting illnesses. We were told recently of a very sick child, aged 6 who was undergoing major surgery at the end of August, could we make him a quilt? The ladies got together and in 3 half day sessions made a quilt focussing on the boy's favourite thing - Landrovers!

We are hugely proud of what they have achieved, in a very short time. We know the ladies, whilst making this quilt, not only learned a lot and feel they are helping a child at a very difficult time. They were epitomising FU3As philosophy 'Friendship and Fun through Lifelong Learning.'



### Science Group - Rocksavage Visit - Philip

Members of the Science Group visited Rocksavage Gas-Fired Power station at Runcorn in August.

We enjoyed a most informative presentation, with some exceedingly good cakes to accompany it. Is it true, does a five-minute boiled egg for the nearby residents become a six-minute one when the plant is on-stream?

Unfortunately, the plant was undergoing a series of operational upgrades, which limited our tour to just the exterior, but that provided a real sense of the enormous size of equipment needed to generate electricity.

It was interesting to hear an energy producer's view on the UK's energy policy and renewables targets for 2020, and the associated implications for the industry at large. This set against a background of closing coal-fired power stations, nuclear power stations reaching the end of their life, and the questionable performance of on/off shore wind farms.



### Away Day to the Manchester Ship Canal - Gill

#### Another amazing Away Day!

52 intrepid explorers ventured on a cruise up the Manchester Ship Canal. We enjoyed over six hours of commentary pointing out the places of interest and history of the development of the canal and the surrounding area. Travelling through a series of locks to climb the 60 feet to Salford, sailing way below the Runcorn bridge and the Thelwall Viaduct M6 and



Barton Bridge M60 motorways – waiting for the swing bridges to open to allow us through – the most fascinating being the last two foot bridges across to the National War Museum and the Lowry Gallery.

Disturbing the wildlife as we sailed up the canal – herons, cormorants, shags and many other species as well as the sheep and cattle grazing on the marshland separating the River Mersey from the Ship Canal and the wild piebald ponies who had made their home on the wasteland, we arrived back tired but exhilarated having once again learnt more about the places on our doorstep.



### Bird Group - Ospreys and Kites, Friday 18 July 2014 - Jon

The group visited the Dyfi Osprey Project, at Cors Dyfi Nature reserve near Machynlleth. This is home to a pair of ospreys, Glesni and Monty, who featured in BBC Springwatch and, with their two young in the nest, can be viewed from a superb new observatory and also on webcams. In brilliant sunshine we watched the thrilling sight of the male swooping in from the estuary with a mullet, passing the fish to the mother, who then fed the youngsters in the nest.

The ospreys arrived from West Africa in April and by the end of September the young will have begun their return migration, following their parents who will have already left. Amazing! Ospreys are rare in Wales, only two breeding pairs currently known, so it was brilliant to see them at Cors Dyfi.



For the second part of our day out we spent at Bwlch Nant Arian Forestry site to see the feeding of the Red Kites at 3pm. After lunch at the visitor centre, we walked to the edge of the lake as the Red Kites gathered, wheeling above in their hundreds. They gave a high whistling call rather like a shepherd signalling his dog. A ranger scattered scraps of meat on the other side of the

lake on a grassy clearing. Some was thrown out over the lake and the Kites swooped, legs and talons out, osprey style, to snatch the meat off the surface of the water. There followed spectacular aerial combats as marauding Kites tried to steal others' catches.

The kites, once common medieval city scavengers, now well re-established in central Wales, obviously come in from miles around, to this well known food source, rather as vultures gather. The magnificent display lasted for around half an hour before the kites gradually dispersed. During that time we marvelled at their aerobatic skill, their flexible, distinctive forked tails, and their long notched wings. We appreciated their glowing colours in the afternoon sun as we walked round the lake trail back to the centre and departed for home after a very satisfying day.

### ~ Wine of the Month - John ~



Here is the second selection in our new feature - Wine of the Month as recommended by the Wine Group!

This month it's a zesty white, Viognier "Cono Sur Bicicleta" is from Chile. Cost is only £5 so it's easy on the pocket, it's from Asda.

With bright, apricot, peach and orange aromas, its good with Chinese food or on it's own. Enjoy!

### ~ MEMBERS' CORNER ~ Chris

Have you been away on a wonderful this year?  
Did you take lots of photographs?  
Would you like to share your experiences?  
if so

FU3A Armchair Travellers are a GREAT audience.

Would you please come and talk to us next year?

If the answer is YES (and we hope it will be).

Please contact: Chris on 07545019179 or Hilary on 01352 780324

P.S. The next meeting is on September 11<sup>th</sup> when we travel to Malaysia. Come along and join us!

**“Have no fear of perfection you'll never reach it.” Salvador Dali**

### Away Stay to Highgrove and Gloucester - Chris



An action packed two days! After an early start we arrived in Gloucester at lunchtime and we were met by our local guides. Some of us were going on walking tours, others had opted for a guided tour of the Cathedral (which included the crypts!) whilst others “did their own thing”. The Cathedral tour was excellent and our guide was so informative. The walking tours gave our members an insight into Gloucester’s fascinating past including a medieval house hidden down a narrow alley. When we arrived at our hotel there was just time for a quick shower before heading down to a welcome and enjoyable dinner. The next morning after a substantial breakfast we set off toward Highgrove, with a short stop in Tetbury before continuing our journey. Our driver had to time our arrival at Highgrove very carefully, lest we should arrive too early and be turned away! When we arrived at Highgrove we didn’t really know we were there

until we glimpsed the house through the trees, there were no signs to be seen! On arrival we were met by our official guides and then began our amazing journey through the beautifully different gardens that had been developed. There was none of the formality in the layout that I was expecting. The gardens were a series of rooms, each with their own charm where wild flower meadows, rubbed shoulders with beds of delphiniums and lupins. We would come upon unusual artefacts and gifts presented to HRH that had been included as part of the planting schemes. HRH’s hands on approach was evident. At one point the excitement level mounted when a helicopter landed briefly outside the house and then took off again, sadly neither of the groups were close enough to see who it was! After our excellent tour around the gardens we enjoyed a delicious Highgrove lunch and had time for a little retail therapy in the shop before heading home to Wales.

**Thank you Mary for a wonderful two days!**

### Away Day to Knutsford - Jean



On the away day to Knutsford we visited Knutsford Heritage Centre to see the Millenium Tapestry. The Tapestry was started in 1997 finished 2001 the vision of one person who wanted a tapestry depicting Knutsford in the Millenium. The community got together and made a 40 ft tapestry created by 3,000 people, men and women. It was so big that it was divided into three sections. A

catastrophe happened when the back of the tapestry was eaten by a wool beetle they had to get rid of the backing and replace it with a new one. After it had been restored it is now safely encased in glass cabinets to ensure that the nasty wool beetle can’t get at the tapestry. It must be seen to appreciate all the effort that went into the project. On our guided tour we heard about Knutsford Heath where they held horse races for the wealthy but when the railways arrived and the hoi polloi began to attend the races they were stopped, typical, not for the likes of us. We saw the house where Mrs Gasgill lived with her Aunt from the age of three, the church where she was married and as Cranford was based on Knutsford the places where the characters of Cranford would have frequented.

Tabley House was owned by the Leicester family. The original house collapsed due to subsidence and the present house was built on higher ground, the chapel, that was still in tact, was re-erected next to Tabley House. In its time it was a school but now the upper floor is a nursing home, the ground floor is a museum and houses an impressive collection of art by British Painters including Turner, Lely and Reynolds, collected by one of the Leicesters.

**Did you miss the North Wales Study Day this year?**

**Do you wish you had gone?  
Not too worry!**

**MYTHS and LEGENDS  
are coming to Flintshire U3A  
NEXT YEAR (Watch this space!)**

### 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 30th September -  
Judie Dench, Steve Coogan in Philomena**

**Tuesday 14th October  
Meryl Streep, Robert Redford in Out Of Africa**

**Tuesday 28th October  
Anton Walbrook, Diana Wynyard in Gaslight**

**Tuesday 11th November  
Robert Newton, Celia Johnson in This Happy Breed**

### 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>	Barry Ashton	<b>01352 741836</b>
<b>Membership Secretary (Co-opted)</b>	Lesley Roberts	<b>01352 840532</b>		Leslie Willis	<b>01978 861482</b>
				Jerry Carter	<b>01244 546529</b>
				John House	<b>01352 720860</b>