

## From the Chair

By the time you read this, storm Doris will have been and gone; and let's hope that she is the last of the winter. I have been amazed at the number of spring flowers that are showing this month. When I lived in the south I never saw a daffodil until after 1<sup>st</sup> March, but here "up north" there have been crocuses and daffodils since the middle of February. The weather and the seasons are turning upside down; before long we'll be going for walks along the Northern Riviera.

I look forward to seeing you at our monthly meetings - and maybe even in Waitrose.

*Bob Davies, Chair*

## MONTHLY MEETINGS

*Starting at 09.45 with tea/coffee followed at 10.30 by the meeting in  
St Columba's Church Hall, Plas Newton Lane, Chester*

**Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> March:** Talk by Carole Dodd entitled 'Confessions of a Registrar'. Carole was Superintendent of Registrars in Liverpool, only the second woman to be appointed since records began in 1837.

**Thursday 9<sup>th</sup> March:** Talk by young violinist Philip Chidell on Chetham's Music School, followed by a recital. Book swap table, computer help desk and social events table.

**Tuesday 4<sup>th</sup> April:** Celebrated International Concert Pianist Andrew Wilde will present a programme of classical music. Andrew was described by Daniel Barenboim as 'a major musical and pianistic talent'.

**Thursday 13<sup>th</sup> April:** Entertainment by the Singing for Pleasure Group. Book swap table, computer help desk and social events table.

*Car Parking at Monthly Meetings: With the popularity of our Tuesday Meeting, parking has become difficult, so if you can come on foot or on the bus (No 51 Stagecoach, Stand 12 – every half an hour) it will be helpful. Please park tidily in the car park and take care not to damage other vehicles. If the car park is full there is room in the surrounding roads, but remember not to park on Newhall Road as it is a busy street. There is always more space at the Thursday Meeting.*

**NEWS SHEETS:** Copies left over from the Tuesday monthly meeting are taken to Age UK in Queen Street. **Did you remember to download the electronic version this month:** [www.chesteru3a.org.uk](http://www.chesteru3a.org.uk)? That way you can see a copy (usually from about the 1<sup>st</sup> of the month) without having to wait for the monthly meeting.

## Social Events

The Team: Elizabeth Flanagan - 341097 Sue Proctor - 335943  
Jill Heaps - 351284

*Bookings will not be accepted without full payment. Please remember dates and times can change so check with an up-to-date newsletter. PLEASE PAY BY CHEQUE IF POSSIBLE. For information, these are the abbreviations for our stopping places – HG = Hough Green at Redlands Close bus stop / D St = Delamere St / Sbys = Sainsbury's / SpU = Spar Upton / W100 = Wirral 100. Last two are only for Liverpool trips that go via the A41. It is your responsibility to get to the bus stop in time. Parking for Sainsbury's pick up:- Daytime - use Halfords Car Park / Evening – use Caldley Valley Church lower car parking.*

- April 6<sup>th</sup> Thursday** A morning tour of the **Hat Museum at Wellington Mill**, Stockport. Then we travel to **Arley Hall** (family home of Viscount Ashbooke) for a tour of the Hall and Gardens, complete with Sculpture Trail. Lunch will be available here but needs to be booked. (See Liz for options if you haven't already done so.)  
Coach (Darren's) HG 8.45am / D St 8.50am / Sbys 9.00am **£23.00 (EF)**
- May 16<sup>th</sup> Tuesday** **Shrewsbury and Attingham Park (NT)**  
A morning visit to Shrewsbury museum and Art Gallery, then free time in town centre to find the Darwin Gate, Quantum Leap Arch, (map provided) and have lunch where you choose. In the afternoon we visit Attingham Park for a tour of the house. Home 5.45 ish. **NT members £13.00**  
Coach (Price's) HG 8.40am / D St 8.45 / Sbys 9am **£22.50 (SP)**
- May 25<sup>th</sup> Thursday** **Billy Elliot comes to Liverpool Empire**  
**FULL** Meet at the theatre at 2.00pm **£43.50 (EF)**
- May 29<sup>th</sup> – June 2<sup>nd</sup>** **Cotswolds Holiday** with visits to two villages on the way. Included days out to Longleat House and Safari Park, Bath, High Grove Gardens, Oxford, Blenheim Palace, Chavanager House, often used for filming and many other attractions. Cases not to exceed 18kgms. Any special requests please let Liz know, a.s.a.p. **FULL** but there is a waiting list.  
Pick up times - Chester Station 8.45am / Sbys 9.00am. **£419.00 (EF)**
- June 15<sup>th</sup> Thursday** Take the **Music Train** into deepest Cheshire followed by a visit to a hostelry for lunch (extra payment). Then it is back to the comfort of your train to continue being entertained. A restful day out. **£10.00 (EF)**
- June 29<sup>th</sup> Thursday (mat)** **Matthews Bourne's Red Shoes** on tour, for one week only, is coming to the **Empire L'pool**. Make your own way and Liz will meet you at the theatre at 2.00pm.  
**FULL** Circle seats for the fantastic price of **£12.00 (EF)**
- July 6<sup>th</sup> Thursday (mat)** **La Cage Aux Folles at Liverpool Empire**. See Liz for translation for it is not as it seems (to those of you who speak French). It is the story of George (manager of a St Tropez night club) and Albin (the star attraction) and the farcical adventures which ensue when George's son brings home his fiancée's ultra conservative parents to meet them. **£32.00 (EF)**
- Sept 20<sup>th</sup> Wednesday** **Summer holiday to the Hotel Garden, Alassio in Italy** with day trips to Monaco, Monte Carlo, Dolceaqua, Ventimigli and Portofino. Details & booking forms from the desk or website. Book direct with the holiday company. Transport will be arranged to the airport (small charge). Singles are limited so need to book early. Discount held until 31<sup>st</sup> March. **Twin £849.00, Singles £998.00. (EF)**
- Various** **Canal Trips to Beeston, Lymm and Anderton. River Dee trips in the summer.**  
**Details at the desk. (EF)**

**N.B.** We do ask that you pay by cheque please (maximum of two trips per cheque) which is more convenient and secure for you. Also please pay in full when booking.

**Special phone number** (07913111709) to ring on the day of a trip if you are unable to go at the last minute or get lost in the town/area/venue where we are. At other times please phone whoever is organising the trip.

# Groups

## Can you help?

Is there anyone who knows **British Sign Language** and would be willing to help other members learn?

If so, please contact Kay Lunt on [groups@chesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@chesteru3a.org.uk) or leave a message on 01244 348715.

## Painting 2

### Group vacancies

Could you be a budding Picasso or Constable?

Come and find out at Painting 2.

For more information contact Barbara Wright on 01244 349760.

## Sunday Dining

Regrettably the Sunday Dining group has had to be suspended indefinitely.

## Possible New Groups

Chess, Creative Writing, Gardening 2, Literary Appreciation, Whist.

Anyone interested in the above, please email Kay Lunt on [groups@chesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@chesteru3a.org.uk) or leave a message on 01244 348715.

## Do you play a musical instrument?

Would you be interested in playing and creating some music with a pianist?

If you are interested please contact Kay Lunt on [groups@chesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@chesteru3a.org.uk) or leave a message on 01244 348715.

## Crosswords

Are you interested in crosswords?

Would you be interested in improving your crossword solving skills?

If so please contact Kay Lunt on [groups@chesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@chesteru3a.org.uk) or leave a message on 01244 348715.

## Social Events

Notice to new members.

We hope you have seen the possible visits/trips outlined on the Social Events page of this Newsletter.

Just a few points:

- 1) Events organised by the Social Group are open to all members of U3A.
- 2) In accordance with the ethics of the U3A they are deemed to be educational in some form.
- 3) The initials after each outing show the person to contact for that particular visit.
- 4) Names and telephone numbers are listed at the top of page 2.
- 5) You can find the organisers at the Tuesday and Thursday meetings – sitting at a table at the back of the main hall. Do go and talk to them.

Some information about booking trips:

- Because many of the trips have to be booked and paid for in advance, unfortunately the bus price cannot be refunded as this has to be paid regardless of cancellations.
- Also, please take care when booking that you are available on that particular date as on occasions the venue money cannot be refunded either.

## News-Sheet Co-Editor

We are still looking for someone (or more than one someone) who would like to help collate the monthly news-sheet.

If you're reasonably comfortable with computers then it's not a difficult task and training can be given.

If you're interested, please contact Joyce Carrington on 01244 373189.



### Chester U3A Website

Have you discovered yet what a wealth of useful information is available on our website Diary page? Why not have a look at <http://www.chesteru3a.org.uk/diary.htm>?

For example, from 29<sup>th</sup> August to 1<sup>st</sup> September there's a North West Regional Summer School at Newton Rigg Agricultural College, near Penrith.

Following the link, you can find out how much it costs, how to book, how to get there, what courses are on offer and on which night there will be a Gala Dinner.

Go on – you know you want to!



### Members' Expenses

Group co-ordinators and members who incur expenses on Chester U3A business can reclaim these from the Committee.

Expense claim forms are available on the [Group Co-ordinators](#) website page.

These forms have now been updated to allow for expenses to be paid direct to your bank account.

Members should complete the information requested on the form and pass to the Treasurer.

Please contact the Treasurer, [Gary Nye](#) if you require any further information.



### IN OTHER NEWS

It has been reported that the Met Office has issued a weather warning for the whole of Spring.

People in the South are urged not to travel unless absolutely necessary owing to the anticipated snow blizzards, ice, wind and rain.

They suggest that Northerners might consider wearing their big coat.



**Tea Rota for Monthly Meetings.** Groups responsible must confirm with: Veronica Cavanagh 01244 679217 (Tues) or Jan Maidment 01244 344328 (Thurs).

#### Tuesdays

March	Industrial Heritage 3
April	Jazz Appreciation
May	Line Dancing

#### Thursdays

March	Italian Improvers
April	Knitting
May	Literary Appreciation 1

The cut-off date for the next News Sheet is **Wednesday 22<sup>nd</sup> March**.  
Please send contributions to the News Sheet web address: [newsheet@chesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:newsheet@chesteru3a.org.uk)  
or in writing to: PO Box 167 Chester CH2 1WL  
This month's editor: Mal Waite      Next month's editor: Joyce Carrington

**Chair:** Bob Davies: [chair@chesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@chesteru3a.org.uk)  
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