



From the Chair

I was sitting listening to a talk on the Anglo Saxons this morning and wondering how our needs had changed in just over one thousand years. Well, not a lot. Food, health, safety and procreation. One perhaps now that was not about then, for good or ill, is the pursuit of happiness. Is this too selfish, or is it that in the U3A we do it together and for the benefit of others?

Bob Davies, Chair. 07986515449

MONTHLY MEETINGS

Starting at 0945 with tea/coffee followed at 1030 by the meeting in St Columba's Church Hall, Plas Newton Lane, Chester

Tues 4th April: Andrew Wilde: "Piano Virtuoso" North West Music Trust. Celebrated International Concert Pianist Andrew will present a programme of classical music for us. Described by Daniel Barenboim as "a major musical and pianistic talent". nwmusictrust@aol.com

Thurs 13th April: The Singing for Pleasure group will be performing during the meeting. Book swap and computer help desk.

Tues 2nd May: Michael Blackburn: "Richard Trevithick: His life and work with Steam Engines" Michael is a keen photographer and geographer in addition to his interest in engines, railways and trams. Gives very many lectures on shipping and trade, mountains, photographs and Ordnance Survey. mikeblackburn@btinternet.com

Thurs 11th May: June Hargreaves is giving an introductory talk on Heraldry. Book swap and computer help desk.

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) 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? That way you can see a copy (usually from about the 1st 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. 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.

Day time for Sainsbury's use Halfords Car Park. Evening use Caldley Valley Church lower car parking .

April 6th Thur. A morning tour of the **Hat Museum at Wellington Mill, Stockport.** Then we travel to **Arley Hall** (family home of Viscount Ashbook) for a tour of the **Hall, and Gardens,** complete with **Sculpture Trail.** Lunch will be available here but needs to be booked so see me for options if I have not contacted you by email. **Coach (Darrens) HG 8.45am/ Del St. 8.50/ Sbys 9.00am £23.00. (EF).**

May 16th Tues. 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.** **Coach (Price's) HG 8.40am/ D.St. 8.45/Sbys 9am. £22.50. NT members £13.00. Home 5.45 ish (SP).**

May 25th Thurs. The long awaited **Billy Elliot** comes to **Liverpool Empire. Top seats £43.50. Full. Meet at the theatre at 2.00pm (EF)**

May 29th – June 2nd Cotswolds Holiday. Cases not to exceed 18kgs. **Any special requests please let me know, a.s.a.p. Pick up times, Chester Station 8.45am and Sainsbury's 9.00am. Full but have waiting list. (EF).**

June 15th Thurs 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 26th Mon. Canal ride, Cheshire Cat to Wharton lock, stopping at the **Shady Oak** for those wanting to **lunch** there, while the picnic people can stay on board for the turnaround. Barge leaves at 9.30am. Park in the pub carpark. **£13.50 (EF)**

June 29th Thurs. mat Matthews Bourne's Red Shoes on tour, for one week only, is coming to the **Empire L'pool.** Circle seats for the fantastic price of £12.00. Full. Make your own way and I will meet you at the theatre at 2.00pm. **(EF).**

July 6th Thurs mat La Cage Aux Folles at Liverpool Empire. See me 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 Saint Tropez night club and Albin –the star **attraction-** and the farcical adventures which ensue when George's son brings home his fiancé's ultra conservative parents to meet them. **£32.00 (EF)**

July 11th Tues Preston Brook to the Stanley Arms, Anderton. £13.50 (EF)

July 14th Fri. Preston Brook to Lymm along the Bridgewater canal £13.50. (EF)

Aug 30th Wed. Last chance for a tour of the **Salt Museum at Marston** followed by **Roberts Bakery. Sorry but no pacemakers allowed in the bakery. £14.50 (EF)**

Sep 20th Wed, Summer holiday to the Hotel Garden Alassio in Italy, with day trips to **Monaco, Monte Carlo, Dolceaqua, Ventimigli and Portofino.** Collect details and booking forms from the desk or website. Book direct with the holiday company. Transport will be arranged to the airport (small charge). **Twin £849.00, Singles £998.00.** Singles are limited so need to book early.

Discount held until 31st March

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

This page gives Group Co-Ordinators (and others) the chance to publicise their groups and show all U3A members what is going on in areas that interest them.

Disappointingly, this month no co-ordinators have sent anything in for this news-sheet, so it is having to be largely a repeat of what was in last month. I have done a quick count and found there are more than 90 groups in Chester U3A, so there must be some interesting activities taking place somewhere! (I have done my bit and put in a short piece about what the History Group in doing this year.)

I hope that for next month some of you will have a go at 'blowing your own trumpets', with some information of what is taking place in your groups. Even if you are not in need of attracting any new members, it would be of interest to lots of U3A members to find out what is happening across the whole spectrum.

Joyce Carrington (Editor)

History

The subjects chosen by our members for this year are Anglo-Saxon England and the Stuarts. Each theme runs for about six months, and there are several members who come forward to prepare very interesting talks. We also have a field trip arranged for 6th July, when a member of the Chester Archaeological Society will be leading a visit to Heronbridge, the site of the Battle of Chester in the early 7th century.

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 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 or leave a message on 01244 348715.

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 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 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.

Why you should read Third Age Matters (TAM)

Jenny and I recently returned from a Cultural Exchange with Mauritius U3A. Nine UK members – who saw the invitation in TAM - from eight different UK U3As were hosted by local members for one week. We paid all our own travel expenses, but otherwise it was free! We took part in lots of their activities and gave advice when asked. We also met many dignitaries including the archbishop and the vice-president and enjoyed sightseeing trips around this lovely tropical island. Look out for information on their return visit next year. We hope you will make them as welcome as they made us. A more detailed report will appear in Sources at a later date. P.S. Some of us stayed an extra week at our own expense as we thought it was a long way to travel for just one week

Tim and Jenny Carley

Some General Information about the Social Events

Notice to new members: We hope you have seen the possible visits/trips outlined on the Social Events page of this News-sheet.

Just a few points:

- Events organised by the Social Group are open to all members of U3A.
- In accordance with the ethics of the U3A they are deemed to be educational in some form.
- The initials after each outing show the person to contact for that particular visit.
- Names and telephone numbers are listed at the top of page 2.
- 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.

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



Tuesdays

April Jazz Appreciation
May Line Dancing
June Literary Appreciation 2

Thursdays

April Knitting
May Literary Appreciation 1
June Local History

The cut-off date for the next News Sheet is Wed 19th April. Please send contributions to the News Sheet web address: newssheet@chesteru3a.org.uk or in writing to: PO Box 167 Chester CH21WL
This month's editor: Joyce Carrington Next month's editor: Mal Waite (or we may have our new editor in place by then)

Chair: Bob Davies, chair@chesteru3a.org.uk

Membership: Patricia Gifford, members@chesteru3a.org.uk

Business Secretary: Laurence Cole, businesssec@chesteru3a.org.uk