



## From the Chair



A second time around as Chair. Why you may ask did I volunteer again? I have been heavily involved in U3A matters now for 12 years. The more you get to know the organisation the more enthusiastic you become. We belong to a unique organisation. There are over 400,000 members in the UK, all volunteers. We are getting recognised; maybe you spotted members from Sale U3A on Bargain Hunt or a team from Wem U3A competing on Eggheads, or Sussex U3A hosting Gardeners Question time.

25 years ago, Chester was started by a few individuals, the founder members. Maybe you were one of them. If so I would like to hear from you. How do you think we should celebrate our anniversary?

Every year more people join. Our membership is increasing, currently over 1000. I would like to welcome all our new members, as well as those who have returned for another year. As membership of a U3A increases it brings advantages and challenges to the committee and the members: just one of the many items which the committee review. Sheffield U3A and Peterborough U3A each have over 3000 members, so there are no 'Limits to Growth'.

If you wish to know what the committee talk about, the last approved minutes will be posted on the Chester U3A website [www.chesteru3a.org.uk](http://www.chesteru3a.org.uk) and displayed on the notice board at the Tuesday and Thursday monthly meetings. There are two notice boards, one for community activities and the other U3A matters. Please don't all rush at once but one person is needed to take care of the notice boards or they won't be there!

New members will be invited to a "New members' lunch" on January 26<sup>th</sup> to meet the committee and get to know the advantages of becoming a member of Chester U3A. An invitation will be sent to you. Please reply even if you cannot attend as we need to know numbers for catering.

**I have one request to all members – Please be very careful when you send cheques and membership applications to the Chester Post Box. The post box address Chester U3A, PO Box 167, Chester CH2 1WL.** If 1WL is not clear the postman/ sorting office easily mistake it for 1UL then we may never receive it, your correspondence or cheque will not be received or acted upon.

**A Merry Christmas to all Chester U3A members.**

Jenny Carley (Chairman)

**For details about the monthly meetings in Dec and Jan, please see page 4**

**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 1st of the month) without having to wait for the monthly meeting.

## Social Events

**The Team:** Elizabeth Flanagan 341097, Sue Proctor 335943,  
Christine Robinson 683742

*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 .*

**Dec. 21<sup>st</sup> Thurs** Evening performance of the **Spirit of Christmas, presented by John Suchet, at the Philharmonic.** With coach. **Stalls £39.75 Mid Circle £28.50 Back Circle £23.50. Coach HG.5.30/ D.St 5.40 /Sby 5.50 / U.Sp. 6.00. W100.6.10.** Full but I do have a waiting list. (EF)

**Jan 11<sup>th</sup> Thurs** matinee. **Jersey Boys** at Liverpool Empire. I have managed to get 20 seats at a very reasonable price. This is the true story of 4 boys from the wrong side of the track who wrote their own songs and invented their own unique sound .  
Remember their top hits such as **Can't take my eyes off you. Big girls don't cry and Bye Bye Baby. Frankie Valli and the Four Seasons. Meet at 2.00pm. £20.00 (EF)**

**Jan 31<sup>st</sup> Wed** matinee. Her Benny at the recently restored Royal Court Theatre in Liverpool. This is an adaptation of the novel written by Silas Hocking in 1879. A brief synopsis is " Benny, a ten year old boy from the slums of Liverpool, scrapes a living by running errands. His mother is dead and his father a drunken violent brute. Along with his sister Nell he runs away". What happens next? Come along with us and find out. Why not have lunch beforehand at the café and watch the world go by through the large windows. **Meet at 12.30pm for a 1pm start. £13.00 (EF)**

**Feb 15<sup>th</sup> Thurs** A one hour **boat trip around Salford Quays,** and time to visit the **War Museum** etc and have lunch. **Then** a guided tour of the **hidden gem Ordsall Hall (dating from 1177)** with included tea/coffee. **HG.8.40am/ DelSt 8.45/ Sbys 9.00.** We should be home by 5.30pm. **£23.50. (SP)**

**March 22<sup>nd</sup> Thurs** An outing to Liverpool to see **The Beatles Story** followed by the **Chinese Terracotta Warriors** (discovered in 1974). We will travel by train – 9.30am from Chester. Lunch will be your own choice of venue. **£27.00 (EF)**

**N.B. We always include a gratuity for the coach driver in our price so no need for you to tip.**

**Can you please book and pay the organiser of the trip you wish to go on.** Messages have been left on the answer phone of other members of this committee, who have been on holiday. This, of course, has caused confusion.

**Please pay by cheque if possible which is more convenient and secure for you;** also pay in full when booking. **No more than two items per cheque.** If you are paying for more than one person please write the names of the other person on the back of the cheque.

**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. Please enter this number into your mobile phone. At other times please phone whoever is organising the trip. Please make sure you know what time the trips are leaving.

# Groups

## Thurs 14th December Christmas Fair

Stalls ranging from Local Artisan Foods and Crafts to U3A Groups Arts and Crafts

Book swap table, computer help desk and social events table

Entertainment from Chester U3A Singing, Music Performance and Ukulele Groups

### Painting 2

There are vacancies in this group, which meets on Thursdays, 1.30-3.30 pm

No tuition but plenty of advice!

Contact Barbara Wright 01244 349760

### Groups Brochure Errata

**Table Tennis 1** meets Northgate Arena 12.45 -2pm

**Photography** meets second THURSDAY not Tuesday

### New Groups

**Gardening 2** - contact Sue Ainsworth on 07976763265

**Maths for Fun 2**- contact Ros Flinn on 01244 343944

### Change of Coordinators

**Digital Photography** - Gordon Stockley  
01244 347077

**Friday Walkers** - Mike Clark 01244 675676

**Holistic Therapies**  
Fortnightly Mondays am.

and

**Ageless (Ancient) Wisdoms**

Every Friday a.m.

There are a few places available for these groups.

Contact - Ann Wilkinson 01244 332388

### Possible New Group

**Italian:** are you interested in learning Italian? Both current groups are full but if there is enough interest we could look at starting another. Please contact Kay on [groups@chesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:groups@chesteru3a.org.uk) or leave a message on 01244 348715

### History

Our main themes for 2018 are Russia and Ireland.

We can still accommodate a few more members, whether you wish to contribute to presentations or simply come to listen. New members will be made very welcome.

Contact Joyce Carrington 01244 373189

### Local History

**Wesley Meeting Hall, St John Street. Thurs at 2pm**

7th December: Huntington. Group Presentation

### Mosaic Group

Sadly this group no longer meets

## Christmas Lunch

A few last-minute tickets are still available at £20. They will be on sale at the monthly meeting on 5th December. The lunch is at the Doubletree by Hilton on **Tuesday 12th December**

## 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 5th Dec** Gavin Hunter: Historic Villages of Wirral's Dee Coastline. The talk covers the history of the ports and villages of Wirral's Dee coastline from Chester to West Kirby following the decline and fall as the river silted up and changed its course.
- Thurs 14th Dec** Christmas Fair. Stalls ranging from Local Artisan Foods and Crafts to U3A Groups Arts and Crafts. Book swap table, computer help desk and social events table. Musical entertainment
- Tues 2nd Jan** Mike Lyne: Driving in Our Third Age. Talks about the problems we may encounter as we get older, the risks and some solutions on how to continue driving safely.
- Thurs 11th Jan** New Year Quiz presented by Tim Carley. As this is Tim's final fling pick your team and arrive in good time!

*Car Parking at Monthly Meetings: parking is difficult, so if you can come on foot or on the bus (No 51 Stagecoach) it will be helpful. 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 parking space at the Thursday Meeting.*

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



### Tuesdays

December Painting 1  
January Philosophy  
February Play Reading

### Thursdays

December Painting 2  
January Photography  
February Poetry Appreciation

The cut-off date for the next News Sheet is **Wed 13th Dec. (Early because of Christmas)**  
Please send contributions to the News Sheet web address: [newssheet@chesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:newssheet@chesteru3a.org.uk) or in writing to: PO Box 167 Chester CH21WL  
This month's editor: Joyce Carrington Next month's editor: Jen Stirling

**Chair:** Jenny Carley, [chair@chesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:chair@chesteru3a.org.uk) **Membership:** Judith Anderton, [members@chesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:members@chesteru3a.org.uk) **Business Secretary:** Laurence Cole, [businesssec@chesteru3a.org.uk](mailto:businesssec@chesteru3a.org.uk)