

Chair Notes

February, the month of love! I love U3A and I am sure that you agree. When we hear much about loneliness on the news, I feel myself jumping up and down – tell them about U3A! Unfortunately, we are good news and the media likes bad news. You can spread the word wherever you are. Writing this, I am on my way to a Network meeting in Manchester to discuss the ‘Cottonopolis’ project which has been reported in the Third Age Trust newsletter. This newsletter reports about what is happening in UK’s U3As and beyond. You can have your own free personal copy by signing up on the National website www.u3a.org.uk.

I have mentioned before that the Third Age Trust (The Trust) is making changes to their governing documents so that the Trust follows how individual U3As operate. The changes will NOT affect the way we operate our meetings or groups in Chester U3A, but we may need to do a few tweaks in our procedures at committee level. Chester U3A has agreed to opt-in to this new object clause from April 1st 2018.

‘The advancement of education and, in particular, the education of older people and those who are retired from full time work by all means, including associated activities conducive to learning and personal development.’

In July there will be a resolution put forward to approve this clause. We will be using the exact wording above which has been agreed with the Charity Commission.

New members were welcomed into Chester U3A at the lunch on 26th January. All members bring new ideas and life into their groups so please welcome any new members that you meet. This month the Popular Science event provides a perfect opportunity to meet new members. Popular Science is our own version of the RI lectures. No science background is necessary to enjoy these lectures so please attend and enjoy.

I am pleased that so many of you want to join the RUG group. I have some specific jobs still not filled.

An organiser for Tuesday monthly meetings: We have members who do tasks at the monthly meetings. A member is needed to coordinate all the activities, and of course attend the meeting.

Guardian of the Asset Register: This would involve an annual audit, update the register on movement, repairs, and reporting of redundant equipment.

Please contact myself or a member of the committee if you are interested in the above.

Jenny Carley 01244680460 email – chair@chesteru3a.org.uk

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,
Tom Clarke 881485**

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 Caldy Valley Church lower car parking .

Jan 31st Weds mat, Her Benny, Royal Court Theatre in Liverpool. **Meet at 12.30pm for a 1pm start. £13.00 (EF)**

Feb 15th 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. Price's coach **£23.50. (SP)**

March 22nd Thurs A visit to Liverpool to see **The Beatles Story** followed by the **Chinese Terracotta Warriors** (discovered 1974). I will go by train at 9.30am but if you want to go by bus please meet us at the Beatles Story Building at 10.30am as tour is booked for 10.40. Lunch will be your own choice of venue. **£23.00 (EF)**

March 29th Thurs Why let the kids have all the fun. Join us at the **Great Easter Egg Hunt at Tower Gardens** and keep all the eggs you find. £1.50. Wear your Easter Bonnet (ladies) or Easter Hat (men) for the Titfer competition. Start 11.00am and later adjourn to Telfords for a drink or lunch (your expense). Pay at desk. **(TC)**

April 26th Sat Bakewell Food Festival. Yummy stalls and the original **Bakewell Pudding Shop**. Later we visit **Haddon Hall** with parts dating from the 12th century "The most perfect house to have survived from the middle ages, sitting like a jewel in its Elizabethan terraced gardens overlooking the river Wye". Films made here are Elizabeth, Pride and Prejudice, and others. **£23.50 or £27.50** with guided tour. **Pick up HG 8.30 /D.St. 8.35 /Sbys 8.50. Davies's coach. (TC)**

May 3rd Thurs Music Train. This is a slow train ride through the beautiful Cheshire countryside, a very short walk to the pub for lunch, and a stroll back to the train. **All this with musicians to entertain us**. Lunch at the **Railway Inn Mobberley** is extra and needs to be booked in advance. **Meet at Chester Station at 10.30am £11.50. (EF)**

May 16th Wednesday. Tissington Well Dressing in Derbyshire. Details at meeting. **(EF)**

July 19th Thurs Plas Cadnant "Hidden Gardens" which have been restored to their former glory. Free time in Beaumaris for lunch or site-seeing. Later to **Halen Mon (Anglesey Salt)** for Tasting and Factory Tour. **HG 8.30am/D.St. 8.35/Sbys 8.50. £24.00 (SP)**

Sept.26th Wed. 8 day holiday to Croatia/Slovenia flying from Liverpool to Pula. Hotel is one of the Laguna (4*) group in Porec. 3 included excursions and one optional still to be decided. Leaflets at meeting. Book through the travel agents. Flyers at the desk. Twins £839.00 if booked before end of April and Singles £988. After April price will rise by £50.00p.p. (EF)

Oct 3rd Wed mat Helen Forrester's By the Waters of Liverpool at Empire £20. (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

Popular Science - open to all members!

The next Popular Science lecture will be held on **Wednesday 21st February** at Bishops Blue Coat Church of England High School, Vaughans Lane, Great Boughton, Chester CH3 5XF.

Coffee will be served in the Library at 09.30 and the lectures will start at 10.00, finishing at noon.

You do not need to book. There is plenty of parking at the school.

This time we will have two new talks from members of our Science Group.

Andrew Cross, will be talking about Green Energy. Andy lives in Ashton Hayes, which since 2006 has been working towards becoming a carbon neutral community; green energy is one of Andy's long term interests.

Ros Flinn is well known to Maths for Fun students but started her career as an astronomer and is an active member of Chester Astronomical Society. Her talk will be on Gravitational Waves, and we can expect the very latest news from this frontier of astronomy.

For questions or to be added to an email reminder list, please contact **Janet Money** on 0151 3272566 or email popularscience@chesteru3a.org.uk

Line Dancing

Coordinator change - now Eileen Standing on 01244 951867. Also change of venue - now meets at St. Michael's Church Plas Newton, 1st and 3rd Thurs, 2-3pm

New members welcome - it is good fun and keeps you fit!

Bridge

Coordinator change - now Brenda Walker 0151356 3992. Many thanks to previous Coordinator Peter George

Singing for Pleasure

We meet at the Pavilion, Wealstone Lane, Upton on the second Monday of each month from 2pm –4pm. Come along and join us on the 12th Feb or 12th March if you enjoy singing.

Norma Jones, Co-ordinator. Tel 07749290715 or after 17th Feb on 01244 374603

Literary Appreciation 2

Coordinator change - now Nadine Lenton 01244 629945 There are a few spaces in this group. If anyone is interested please contact Nadine

Maths for Fun 2

This new group intends to meet on a Thursday morning. Anyone interested please contact Ros Flinn on 01244 343944

Family History

Researching your family history is a fascinating and rewarding hobby. Chester U3A has a thriving and knowledgeable family history group. Later in the year, we plan to run a 'How To Start Your Family History' course which will run over a period of approximately four weeks.

If you would like to take part, please ring Hilary Watmough on 01244 326285

Painting

Why not brush up your painting, watercolours, pastels, or drawing? All mediums catered for and new members can expect a warm welcome. Please contact Barbara Wright on 01244 349760

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 6th Feb** Ian Morison: 'Are we alone? Search for life beyond the Earth'. Ian's talk will discuss the prospects of finding life through detecting intelligent signals from other advanced civilisations.
- Thurs 8th Feb** Dave Atkinson, a local folk singer and composer will entertain us. Book swap and computer help desk
- Tues 6th March** Photographer and adventurer Brian Anderson will give a talk entitled 'Venice Carnevale – Monuments Masks and Mystique'
- Thurs 8th March** A talk on Wills, Power of Attorney and Trusts by Ruth Heap and Karla Cope from Hillyer McKeon. Computer help desk, book swap and craft table

Car Parking at Tuesday 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.



Urgently Wanted



Could you accommodate and provide evening meals and breakfast for French visitors from Upton's twinned village, Arradon in France - April 28th – 30th inclusive?

Most visitors are retired couples or singles wanting to practise their English. Organised activities are planned for the daytime. There will be an opportunity to pay a return visit to Arradon in 2019.

For further information, please contact Terry Wellerman, 01244 311874 or email dtwellerman@hotmail.com.

Non U3A Group—Mature Movers dance sessions at Vicars Cross Community Centre Thursdays 11.30-12.30 for 50+. Cost £4.00 per week. If interested contact Lauren on 01606 861770

Tea Rota for Monthly Meetings. Groups responsible must confirm with:

Veronica Cavanagh 01244 679217 (Tues) or Jan Maidment 01244 344328 (Thurs).



Tuesdays

Thursdays

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| February | Play Reading | February | Poetry Appreciation |
| March | Psychology A | March | Psychology B |
| April | Racketball | April | Reading I |

The cut-off date for the next News Sheet is Wed 21st Feb. 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: Jen Stirling

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