

Our Chairman, Jenny Carley, has very kindly given me the chance to write something for this month's newsletter. Thank you Jenny!

In the middle of February I was fortunate enough to be able to attend a workshop in Leeds organised by the U3A National Office, dealing with things like Safeguarding, Data Protection and Equality. The only downside was having to be on a train to Leeds at 7am in order to arrive in time for the start. I thought I'd given up things like that when I retired.

It was wonderful to see representatives there from U3As across the country: from the Highlands of Scotland to Plymouth; and from Northern Ireland to Northumberland. I had the opportunity to make contact with people with other experiences of how U3As operate and in particular to hear how the U3A ethos fits into their community.

There were differences obviously but what struck me most was that we had more in common in terms of our strengths and the challenges we were facing than perhaps I'd expected. I came back to Chester enthused and invigorated. I also came back knowing far more about the legal side of what we do than I ever anticipated needing.

While there, I was also able to listen to and talk to some of those who had organised the workshop and who work out of the national office in London. It brought home to me what a fantastic resource we have in them and I thought it would be good to remind you of some of the things that are available as part of your membership of Chester U3A.

Just to highlight a few things of interest that might have escaped your notice:

- The U3A National Office sends out an email newsletter each month with information about what's going on, both nationally and in the regions. It's easy to sign up on the national U3A website if you're interested. The link is <https://www.u3a.org.uk/newsletter>
- All U3A members have the option to attend any of the summer schools that are on offer. Some are organised on a national basis, others by some of the regions. A list with links to get more information is on the national website <https://www.u3a.org.uk/events/summer-schools>
- All U3A members also have the option to apply to attend some of the educational events that are organised at a national level. For example later in March you could attend a science lecture at the Royal Institution in London, perhaps imagining yourself at the filming of the annual Christmas lectures. Then in April there is a two day study course at the National Library of Wales in Aberystwyth <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/hidden-heart-of-wales-welsh-culture-architecture-tickets-42879404453>

As we head into Spring, I wish you a happy and healthy season of daffodils and camellia. May the sun shine on you and lift your spirits

Mal Waite
Vice Chair

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 Caldley Valley Church lower car parking.

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Thurs 22nd March A visit to Liverpool to see **The Beatle Story** followed by the **Chinese Terracotta Warriors** (discovered in 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 10.45am as tour is 10.50am. Lunch will be your own choice of venue. **Full £23.00 (EF)**

Thurs 29th March 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 Titter competition**. Start 11.00am and later adjourn to Telfords for a drink or lunch (your expense). Pay at desk. **(TC)**

Sat 28th April 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 & 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)

Thurs 3rd May 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)**

Wed 16th May Tissington Well Dressing in Derbyshire. No one is entirely sure why the wells are dressed every year here but it may have been to celebrate that the village was saved from the **Black Death Coach Davies's HG 8.35am/ D.St 8.45/Sbys 9.00**. If you wish you can visit **Tissington Hall or the Garden** at extra cost. **£10.00 (EF)**

Mon May 28th 9.30am from Cheshire Cat to Shady Oak by Canal £12.50 (EF)

Tues 12th Jun repeat Music Train same details as above but a shared trip (EF)

Thurs 19th July 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. Prices Coach. £24.00 (SP)**

Aug 17th Wed Canal trip from Preston Brook to Lymme £13.00. (EF)

26th Sept. 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 desk **Twins £839.00 pp. and Singles using a twin/double room £1088**. After March 31st price will rise by **£50. (EF)**

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

Please pay in full when booking.

Special phone number (07913111709) to ring on the day of a trip for any reason. Please enter this number into your phone.

N.B. We always include a gratuity for driver on day trips.

Please pay in full when booking.

Groups

Possible new groups

Astronomy - studying stars and planets for enjoyment and wonder!

Jazz Appreciation - second group as first is full

Psychology - another group as Psychology B is full

Italian Beginners - last call for anyone interested

If you are interested in any of the above please contact Kay at groups@chesteruga.org.uk or leave a message on 01244 348715.

New Groups that have just started

Chess - contact Ellis Spender at ellisspender754@btinternet.com

Whist for Beginners. This group is aimed at beginners and those who want to have a go. Meets 1st and 3rd Wednesdays 1-3pm at Bawn Lodge Hotel, Hoole. Contact Angela Rogers on 01244 346830

Italian Improvers

Co-ordinator change - Now Katrina Simister
01244 382561

There is some room in this group for members wishing to improve on their basic skills.

Thanks to previous Coordinator Harry Ryder.

French Improvers

Co-ordinator change - Now Frances Oakley
01244 323368

Thanks to previous Coordinator Keith Honeysett

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

POETRY APPRECIATION GROUP

We are a small lively group who meet every third Tuesday in the month at 2pm in each other's houses. We enjoy reading and discussing a wide range of poets and poetry.

We are currently looking for one or two new members to join us.

Contact **Thelma Stockley** on 01244 347077 if you are interested or would like to find out more.

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 March – Brian Anderson - “Venice Carnevale – Monuments Masks and Mystique”

Join photographer and adventurer, Brian Anderson, who will reveal through his colourful images, the history and myths of Venice, the development of the Carnevale, costumes and masks, all set against the city's stunning architectural backdrops

<http://www.andersonimages.co.uk/>

Thurs 8th March

A talk on Wills, Power of Attorney and Trusts by Ruth Heap and Karla Cope from Hillyer McKeown.

Tues 3rd April – Jill Burton -

“The Howard de Walden Family at Chirk Castle 1911 to 1946 -the society years”

Jill Burton is a retired National Trust Education Officer for the properties of Erddig and Chirk Castle. Last time she spoke about the the servants of Erddig. This time she is focusing on Chirk Castle and the society years both above and below stairs.

<https://www.nationaltrust.org.uk/chirk-castle>

****Computer help desk, book swap and craft table plus Group sales with Easter crafts in the side room on Tues, main hall on Thursday.****

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.



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

	Tuesdays		Thursdays
March	Psychology A	March	Psychology B
April	Racketball	April	Reading I
May	Reading 2	May	Scrabble

The cut-off date for the next News Sheet is Wed 21st March. 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: Jen Sterling Next month's editor: Joyce Carrington

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