

Chair Notes

Quite a lot has happened this month. The weather has certainly improved! On the U3A front I was invited to represent Chester U3A at the 'Beating of the Bounds' A tradition dating back to 1300's. We no longer beat boys at the boundary of their village or town to tell them they should behave and not wander. Today it is a much civilised, a small baby was bumped on the boundary stone on Dukes Drive. She actually enjoyed the experience.

Now an apology to all those members who received the Third Age Matters magazine even though they had opted out of the distribution list for various reasons. We are using a new electronic membership system, Beacon, which will in the long term, improve and lighten the work load of the committee members. The committee are still learning the new computer software, we made an error which has now been rectified and should not happen again. Sincere apologies to all members who were annoyed by this error.

The 25th anniversary celebrations are coming along nicely. The date, 4th September the time 3pm at the Hilton DoubleTree. There will be an afternoon tea at 3pm, so no need to have too much lunch. There will be activities to keep you entertained during the afternoon. Tickets will be on sale at the June and July Monthly meeting. Further details including how to get tickets if you do not attend the meetings will be in June's News Sheet. If you have any memorabilia e.g. old photos, news sheets or maybe when your group started, could you please talk to me.

Thank you to all members who recently came forward to fill the vacancies needed to assist the committee and the operation of Chester U3A. Bob Davies has agreed to take on the Data Protection role and Sue Foy will take over as Speaker Secretary. Also thank you to Judith Hobbs who has collated a list of all our group venues which will greatly assist our records, and Gill Benton who has agreed to take over the Tradesman list. David and Jenny Clegg now look after the Notice boards. Evadne Traske who is collating information for the 25th Anniversary. Andrew Cross who will be looking after out computers. There are others who have volunteered whose positions which are not quite confirmed. Thank you all, I am so grateful that members volunteer, in the true spirit of the U3A.

Jenny Carley

Social Events

The Team: Elizabeth Flanagan 341097, Sue Proctor 335943,
Tom Clarke 881485

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.

Bookings will not be accepted without full payment. Please remember dates and times can change so check with an up-to-date newsletter.

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 28th May 9.30am prompt. **Canal barge from Cheshire Cat to Shady Oak** or Whartons Lock if you prefer to bring a picnic. Meals available at Sh.Oak but need to be ordered on the boat. **£12.50 (EF/BW).** Meet on the canal bank right outside the Pub. You can park there,

Tues 12th Jun repeat Music Train same details as above **£11.50 (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 Friday Canal trip from Preston Brook to Lymme **£13.00. (EF/BW)**

26th Sept. 8 day holiday to Croatia/Slovenia flying from Liverpool to Pula. **(EF)**

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

Stop Press

August/ Sept Trentham Gardens. Details and price at meeting. **(TC)**

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.

Groups

POSSIBLE NEW GROUPS

Astronomy for fun needs a few more members interested to get going

Jazz Appreciation 2 -this group may benefit from an enthusiastic and knowledgeable jazzer who would be prepared to lead but not coordinate the group

Everyday Maths - looking at the uses and misuses of maths in everyday life

Sunday Walking - a few more people and we might have a viable group

Games Group -would you be interested in trying out some board games on a regular basis

New Experiences Group

Have you felt that you have missed out on some exciting experiences in your life so far and would like to change that? This group would aim to meet monthly to try those activities on their "bucket list" and to share that experience with others.

Suggestions so far- segway round the forest, zip along zip wires in N.Wales or the Lakes, perhaps some indoor climbing or ice skating in the winter!

If you are interested in any of the above please contact **Kay** at groups@chesteru3a.org.uk or leave a message on **01244 348715**

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**

Computer Users Group

Would you like to improve your computer knowledge?

We meet monthly on the second Tuesday of the month 2 - 4pm in Burley Hall, Waverton.

We have a presentation each month. This results in a sharing and improvement of our computer knowledge. We have spaces in our group for new members and you would be welcome to attend a meeting free of charge to see what we do without any obligation to join.

If you are interested please contact **Jan C. Maidment** on **01244 344328**

LOCAL HISTORY

The next meeting is on 3rd May at 2 p.m. at the Wesley Methodist Hall, St. John Street. The subject is May Day Celebrations in and around Chester presented by members of the Group.
Kay Hall-Wilton

Love reading?

We have space for 2 new members to join us. Meeting once a month on the last Wednesday morning at my home in Upton Chester. we read mainly modern literature.

Please contact **Joan Hall** on **01244 381867** for more information.

Chester U3A member's Portal

Our members' database has moved to a centrally managed system run by the Third Age Trust. Members are assured that their personal details remain secure and can only be seen by the very few Chester officers who manage the services provided to you.

There are many new benefits that this system can provide to members. The first is a Member's Portal that provides you with access to your personal details, the Chester group details and diary of events. You can use this Portal to ensure the details we hold are correct and to make any changes.

The Portal can be accessed at [Chester Member's Portal](#). You will need to enter your membership number, Post Code and email address that we hold for you.

Please contact the Treasurer, Gary Nye at Treasurer@chesteru3a.org.uk if you need any assistance.

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 1st May **Mark Flinn: 'Allegri to Zelenka'**. Mark is from the [North West Early Music Forum](#). His group of players will tell us a little about pre-classical music and play a variety of pieces on instruments from these early years.

Thurs 10th May **Philip Chidell** is making a welcome return visit to give us a musical talk entitled '**Classical Music: overcoming the commercial challenges**'.

Tues 5th June **Peter Gaunt - "Chester's Role During the English Civil War 1642-46: Regional Capital or Red Herring"**

Peter Gaunt is a Professor of Early Modern History. His talk will give us an interesting perspective of Chester's role during the Civil War

<https://www.chester.ac.uk/departments/history-archaeology/staff/professor-peter-gaunt>

Thurs 14th June '**Where there's a Will**' - A lighthearted look at some last wills and testaments with **Jane Harrap**

On the Thursday social meetings we have been entertained by a variety of groups and individual members who have professional or amateur interests which they talk talked about.

We have a few more lined up but I'm sure there must be many people out there who would be willing to share their enthusiasms with the general membership.

I just don't know who they are.

Please contact me on 01978 761309 - Jane Harrap

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.

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



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

Tuesdays

May	Reading 2
June	Science
July	Social Justice

Thursdays

May	Scrabble
June	Singing for pleasure
July	Spanish

The cut-off date for the next News Sheet is **Wed 24th May**. 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

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