

December 2011

Volume 13 Issue 3

Crewe & Nantwich U3A Newsletter

SEASONS
GREETINGS
TO ALL OUR
U3A
MEMBERS



Adam Partridge the Speaker
at our AGM
on
Wednesday 15th February .

Notes for your 2012 Diary

<u>Spring Term</u>	9th January to 30th March
<u>Summer Term.</u>	16th April to 22nd June
<u>Next Newsletter Deadline</u>	10th April

Visit our Website—www.creweandnantwich-u3a.org.uk

First, may I extend a very warm welcome to our new members, and hope that you are enjoying your U3A activities. It is an excellent organisation, and at a very reasonable cost. These costs are low because our group leaders are entirely voluntary and are unpaid. Their only reward is to enjoy the experience of seeing their group or class members improving their knowledge and skills.

So I'd also like to give my warmest of thanks to all the group leaders, both existing and the many new ones. Long may you want to continue to lead your group!! Many members can, and do, encourage the leaders to continue by helping in many ways at classes and group meetings; I certainly find that in the group I lead.

Naturally, behind all this are quite a few "unsung heroes". These include not only the committee, whose work ensures that you have rooms, registers, money is banked to pay for the rooms, correspondence is dealt with, and so on, as well as ensuring that events like the open day are well organised, and well I could go on and on. The list also includes David Fishburne our newsletter editor, and Alan White our webmaster, and those who come to help out from time to time. All this work is purely voluntary and, of course, unpaid.

Please, it is your U3A, so think whether you are doing all you can to ensure our continued success. May I wish you ALL a Happy Christmas, and very best wishes for the New Year.

Weekly / Termly Class Fees or Levies

There have been one or two instances where a small number of members feel that they should not be paying the full group or class levy. I therefore feel it a good idea to remind everyone of some of the current rules.

If you wish to be part of a group or class, then you presently have a choice of how to pay the class fees or levies.

Option 1 is to pay for ALL the classes of that term, whether or not you intend going to all of them, at the rate set for that group. (Mostly 50p, but some are higher)

Option 2 is to pay for individual classes that you do attend at TWICE the rate set for that group. (Mostly £1, but some are higher).

If you choose the first option, paying for the whole term, you are expected to pay for the WHOLE term, even if you choose not to attend for the whole term or to miss some of the sessions. Credits would only be given if you were unable to attend because of serious extended ill health. Also, if a class has to be cancelled, then there would be a credit.

Please note that if you pay the levy for the whole term by cheque, it should be made payable to "Crewe and Nantwich U3A".

Some groups make an additional charge, which is kept within the group, to pay for such items as guest speakers, etc. Those amounts are set by the group leader.

Peter Marshall tel 214695, email petersmarshall@talktalk.net

A Noble Tribute

I wish to propose the nomination of Keith Noble for the prestigious Honorary award of the NO BELL Prize for Communication, Literacy, Information, Enjoyment and Humour during his twelve years as the Editor of the Crewe & Nantwich U3A newsletters.

In support of this nomination Keith has shown outstanding attributes of patience, dedication and sincerity, such as:-

- **NO-BELL:** he rings loud and clear with his details with no clangers.
- **NO-BALL:** his deliveries are always within guidelines of consistency and skill.
- **NO-BULL:** always concise, clear and informative in his deliberations and messages.
- **NO-BILL:** all completed on a voluntary basis within his own time and IT skills.

Thank you so much, Keith for all your endeavours on our behalf over a dozen years. Enjoy your retirement from this role. Have I got a seconder to this proposal?

John Diolch Merci White

Pacers Update

The new group, has an average of twenty attending each walk. We have walked from, Market Drayton, Swettenham, Mow Cop, Elton Flashes, Hartington, Little Budworth, and at the end of November doing a circular walk from the Brittles. We are joining the Striders for our Christmas walk and lunch at Brookfield Golf Club, so all in all a

good start.

I have got, along with myself, volunteers to lead walks right through until the end of June, so a full programme to look forward to. I would like to thank everyone for their assistance which has made my job so easy.

Brian McNair

In the old days Jack Snelson would have been carrying a bag of carrots to feed the horses! - Ed.



There were mixed feelings as we arrived at Crewe Bowling Club on 19th September 2011. Members of the U3A Monday Group were saying goodbye to their long-term leader, Stan Thomason, and his trusty sidekick, Brian Hayes. Both are moving on to other things and will be sadly missed.

It wasn't all doom and gloom, however, because it did give us an excuse to have a party – not that the group needed an excuse. We tucked into gâteau and trifle, pies and pavlova. Rob Pennell from the Wednesday Crown Green Bowling group will be taking over next year. I hope that he likes parties!



Our picture shows Stan with Brian on the left and former instructor Bernard Wakeley on the right. Joan Yarwood

The sharing of marriage...

The old man placed an order for one hamburger, French fries and a drink. He unwrapped the plain hamburger, carefully cut it in half, placing one half in front of his wife. He then carefully counted out the French fries, dividing them into two piles and neatly placed one pile in front of his wife. He took a sip of the drink, his wife took a sip and then set the cup down between them. As he began to eat his few bites of hamburger, the people around them were looking over and whispering. Obviously they were thinking, 'That poor old couple - all they can afford is one meal for the two of them.'

As the man began to eat his fries a young man came to the table and politely offered to buy another meal for the old couple. The old man said, they were just fine - they were used to sharing everything. People closer to the table noticed the little old lady hadn't eaten a bite. She sat there watching her husband eat and occasionally taking turns sipping the drink.

Again, the young man came over and begged them to let him buy another meal for them. This time the old woman said 'No, thank you, we are used to sharing everything.'

Finally, as the old man finished and was wiping his face neatly with the napkin, the young man again came over to the little old lady who had yet to eat a single bite of food and asked 'What is it you are waiting for?' She answered --'THE TEETH.'



I felt really happy, absolutely delighted, at our Open Day because so very many people came up to me to tell me how much they enjoyed it. So I thank you all – those group leaders and members who came along to set up and show their work, and manning their desks. A big thank you, too, John Burton for your excellent organisation (again) and the many people (committee members and other volunteers) who helped set up, and clear away, keep us supplied with tea and coffee, take new members details, and so on. Just BRILLIANT, well done – it was very much appreciated.

Our Mayors, The Worshipful the Mayor of Cheshire East Councillor Roger West, and The Worshipful the Mayor of Crewe Councillor Roy Cartlidge, both said how much they enjoyed it too, as you can see from the smiles on their faces. Thanks, Neil for the lovely photo. **Peter Marshall**

What have your groups been up to this term?

Only four of the eighty groups have sent in a report on their activities, surely some of you have carried out something which you would like to share with the rest of our U3A members.

I have only a limited number of jokes with which I can use to fill in the gaps! Don't forget you can view the photo's in this newsletter in colour by visiting our website:- www.creweandnantwich-u3a.org.uk.

Editor

Our A G M (Annual General Meeting)

As you will see from the Calling Notice and Agenda included with this newsletter, your AGM will be held on Wednesday 15th February 2012 at 10 o'clock in the morning, with tea and coffee served from 9.30.

I'm delighted to tell you that our guest speaker this year will be the very highly acclaimed Auctioneer and Valuer Adam Partridge, who I know, from other people's comments, will give a most excellent talk.

So please don't miss this most important event and talk in your organisation's calendar and I suggest you write it in your diary now.

Our U3A relies totally on members willing to run the organisation and we are always looking for new ideas and input to help us improve. We would like new committee members to join those who will be continuing, and someone to fill the post of secretary. Please consider volunteering or nominating someone (with their permission of course) – a nomination form is included with this newsletter.

Thank you in anticipation of your attendance, Peter

Profile of Adam Partridge

I was born and grew up in London and moved to Cheshire at the end of 1998. I am married to Clare and have two young sons. I have had an interest in antiques and auctions from an early age and I have many other hobbies and interests outside the saleroom.

I am a keen musician and can play the violin and piano...in fact I have been known to play the violin on the TV in the past, which is often commented upon! I have a particular interest in musical instruments – it must run in the family as my parents were both professional violinists and my grandfather was also a keen musician, collector and restorer; even my cousin deals in musical instruments.

My favourite sport is cricket and I enjoy playing and watching, a fan of the West Indies for many years. I am a full member of The Lord's Taverners and am pleased to be able to assist them as auctioneer and sometimes compere at many charity events, helping to raise funds to give children, especially those with special needs, a sporting chance. I play every year in a celebrity cricket match for the Lord's Taverners, held at Cholmondeley, in the grounds of Cholmondeley castle

I am an animal lover and have dogs, cats and chickens at home, a small smallholding in South Cheshire and we also enjoy gardening and growing our own produce. I have been known to sell our delicious free-range eggs to friends, staff and auction customers!

Favourite place – Commonwealth of Dominica, West Indies. I worked as art auctioneer on a cruise ship for most of 1998 so I had a chance to visit many Caribbean islands and Dominica, The Nature Island of the Caribbean was a clear favourite for me. We have friends out there and try to visit as often as we can!

In 2008 I started my own auction business based in South Cheshire and now hold regular sales of quality antiques, fine art & collectors' items.

Extracted from Adam's Website:- www.adampartridge.co.uk

The Swan Investment Club

The Swan Investment Club was formed in 1997 and the members were mainly from Ken Brown's Finance Group of our U3A, who wished to invest small quantities of money monthly.

There are three surviving founder members, Ken Brown, who was the initial Chairman, Gwen Winstanley, who has been treasurer since it started and Janet Arnold. Gwen provides a monthly report on the state of individual and group holdings of our portfolio.

Investments and sales are made through Barclay's Stockbrokers, and we operate with a written constitution and a set of working rules.

Our monthly meetings are generally lively resulting from the wide and varied range of experience of our members and over the fourteen years of running, we have been through the good and bad times. Remember the Dotcom boom and the subsequent collapse of the markets and then the problems of recent years, but overall we have not lost or gained fortunes and have been through countless learning curves!

Membership is limited by statute to 20 and we currently have three vacancies, one of our main sources of recruitment has been our Finance Group, which unfortunately folded last year after 13 years, when Ken Brown became Chairman of Sandbach U3A. Anyone who is interested in finding out more about the Swan, could come along to a meeting at the Memorial Hall at 10.00am on the third Thursday of the month or contact me:- for more information.

David Fishburne Tel. 611 726

Did I read the Sign right?

In an office: TOILET OUT OF ORDER..... PLEASE USE FLOOR BELOW.

In a Laundromat: AUTOMATIC WASHING MACHINES: PLEASE REMOVE ALL YOUR CLOTHES WHEN THE LIGHT GOES OUT.

In a London department store: BARGAIN BASEMENT UPSTAIRS.

In an Office: WOULD THE PERSON WHO TOOK THE STEP LADDER YESTERDAY PLEASE BRING IT BACK OR FURTHER STEPS WILL BE TAKEN.

Notice in a farmer's field: THE FARMER ALLOWS WALKERS TO CROSS THE FIELD FOR FREE, BUT THE BULL CHARGES.

On a repair shop door: WE CAN REPAIR ANYTHING. (PLEASE KNOCK HARD ON THE DOOR - THE BELL DOESN'T WORK)

We commenced the autumn term with 102 members, having welcomed four new people from the waiting list - Christine Fleming, Malcolm Hitt, Peter Moorhouse and Gerald Twiss MVO.

Our group was well represented at the funeral of a LH1 member - Clarice Parker - at All Saints Church in Crewe on 26th September.

John Whitmore resigned as Deputy Group Leader in July after 5 years in that post; he and Margaret plan to move to the Watford area where they will be close to their daughters' families. We wish them well in the future. The new Deputy Group Leader is Sue Church, who brings such a wealth of knowledge and research to LH1.

The tutors who circulated during autumn were:

Maureen Bellis on 'Homes'

Sue Church on 'In Memoriam'

David and Doreen Mason on 'The First One' - a research model

John Edser on 'Pieces of the Palatinate'.

The members' presentations, organised by Bill Downey, have provided expertise, enthusiasm and enjoyment. They have included:

A Country Cleric Part 2 by Jill Ashley.

Cheshire Curiosities (a DVD presentation) by Neil Smith

Jorracks by Warren Wright, a past member

The 90s and noughties by Jenny Jinkinson

Memories of Crewe in the 1950s by Brian McNair

Nantwich's Georgian Canal - Chris Walsh

The life and times of Nantwich - Janice Whitmore

Memories of National Service - Alan Richardson

The Wistaston Memorial Hall - John White

A bridge in my background - Mary Cliff

An illustrated talk on Trentham - David Cooke

A Peover Miscellany - Sue Church, Nancy Griffiths and Barbara Maskell.

On the last session of the autumn term somebody will be thrown out of a hot-air balloon!

Two fascinating and informative trips were organised by Nancy Griffiths and Barbara Maskell to the Jodrell Bank Discovery Centre and to Keele Hall and Chapel.

Our group's annual luncheon will be held at the Brookfield Golf Club on 24th January when after-meal music will ensue.

We can substantiate the U3A's first principle, "U3A recognises the immense resources of skills, experience and enthusiasm possessed by older people who are no longer in full-time employment" QED.

John White, Group Leader

C&N's U3A helps the Export Drive to the USA

In the Spring Term, the Sewing Group were inspired to try our hands at Millinery! After all we had a Royal Milliner as our instructor and the Royal Wedding was approaching.

So Marion Fishburne designed a fascinator, which we could manage. The results were pleasing and pretty, and photos were taken of us modelling our creations.

I emailed my picture to my sister Anne in Washington DC, she admired the fascinator and mentioned that she needed a hat as her daughter and nieces were organising a tea party to celebrate Will and Kate's Big Day. Hats were to be worn at 4am Washington time. So I offered mine and duly posted it to Anne.

Their party went well and the fascinator was much admired and all the girls tried it on. Later that day my niece, a manager at the Special Olympics wore it to a function in Washington and was accosted by a young man who said, "I love your hat and I can see you follow Kate Middleton's style!"



I really enjoy the Friday Sewing Group, as well as being very sociable, we learn new skills and some old ones with the help of Margaret Ford and Marion.

Margaret Yates

Computing (CMP1) and Web Design (WEB) groups.

I had planned to hold a Computing group on Thursdays at St Thomas More school again this year, running from October until Christmas, followed by a Web Design course in the New Year.

Unfortunately, there was insufficient interest in the October course to justify the cost of hiring the school facilities and the amount of preparatory work that is needed for each class.

Currently, 7 people have contacted Dave Jinkinson to register an interest in Web Design, starting in January, and two others have phoned me. This will also be cancelled unless there is more interest.

If you would like to attend either a Computing or a Web Design course starting in January, please E-Mail me at johnburton.u3a@gmail.com and let me know which one you would prefer, *even if you have previously expressed an interest*.

I will then decide which course to run or whether I should cancel it completely.

Shortly after I had cancelled the October course, three more people contacted me to say that they were interested. If they had registered their interest with Dave Jinkinson sooner, their names would have been on our database and I would probably have run the course so please, in future, contact Dave (daveju3a@gmail.com) if you are interested in any course.

John Burton

NOT ALL GROUPS HAVE WAITING LISTS. **We are enjoying Italian. Join us!**

The only remaining Italian class meets on Wednesdays from 10am until 12noon at the Memorial Hall in Wistaston. We are a group who enjoy getting together, having coffee and biscuits, eating occasional cake and speaking Italian. We cover both vocabulary and grammar in a very informal setting, but with purpose and focus and we all participate fully in deciding what we need to look at specifically. We were wondering if you would like to join us? This class is not suitable for beginners and you do need to have a basic understanding of the spoken word and grammar. If you visit Italy for holidays, have a property there or just enjoy the language come and give us a go. If you are pondering then contact:-

Fiona Sloyan on 07810 330109.



The History of Art and Architecture Group once again set out by coach from Nantwich for a trip to see the National Trust property near Wolverhampton, Wightwick Manor. The weather was somewhat wet and gloomy but we arrived to a warm welcome. After coffee and videos our tour guide made the most of this very interesting house; formerly the home of the Manders family, noted paint manufacturers. They were avid compulsive collectors and patrons to the many artists of the Arts and Craft Movement. The house itself is built in red brick with twisted and projecting features. It could never be described as boxlike, indeed it is a feast for the eyes. Everyone listened with interest to our guide and gazed at works of art, carvings, furniture, stained glass and upholstery; a true kaleidoscope of patterns. The designs of William Morris inspired much of the decor.

During the return journey we visited Dobies Nursery for refreshments. All in all, a good trip and we thank Phyllis Ross for a most enjoyable addition to our group meetings.

Margaret Doano

U3A DISCOUNT SCHEME

The Discount Scheme is available to all Crewe & Nantwich U3A Members. Just show your current U3A membership card and the following shops or businesses will allow you a discount*:

John Pass, Jewellers 10% on selected goods or services (not available on some brands)
179 Nantwich Rd, Crewe, CW2 6DT Tel: (01270) 214157 website: www.johnpass.co.uk

Office Services, 10% on office equipment & stationery (not small items)
217-219 Nantwich Road, Crewe CW2 6DE Tel. 01270 255802
website: www.officeservices.uk.com

Nantwich Bookshop 10% on Books and DVDs
46 High Street, Nantwich CW5 5AS Tel. 01270-611665 website: www.nantwichbooks.co.uk

The Paper Place 10% on art materials
14 Hospital Street, Nantwich CW5 5RJ Tel. 01270-623132
website: www.thepaperplaceuk.com

Making Tracks 5% on Walking Equipment & Clothing.
32 Pillory Street, Nantwich Tel.01270 610033 website: www.making-tracks.net
A friendly personal service for everything to do with walking

SERVICES

So Electric Steven Oultram, Electrician 10% to U3A members
45 Manor Road, Nantwich Tel. 07952896637 website: www.soelectric.co.uk

Crewe Sewing Services 10% Marta Jones (U3A member in Wistaston) Tel. 07908 819848
Neat and reliable clothing repairs and alterations. Hems, zips, pockets, buttons etc. Clothes altered to fit. Free local collection and delivery.

Energy Performance Certificates Judith Johnstone Bsc, Domestic Energy Assessor
10% to U3A members planning to sell or rent out a property. Tel. 01270-841939
(Judith is a U3A member)

SOMETHING FOR LADIES

Sheer Beauty Amy Rowlands Mobile Beauty Therapist 10% Tel. 07855308121
Amy is the daughter of a Sandbach U3A member and offers manicure, tinting, pedicure, massage, waxing, facials and make up.

* **Note:** Some traders do not allow discount on all goods or certain brands or sale items.

MORE TO COME.....(we hope)

If you know or can recommend any potential local shops or traders who might offer a discount would you please contact me. **Neil Smith** Tel. 01270-214533

email: neilsmith24@sky.com

Grandchildren....

She was in the bathroom, putting on her makeup, under the watchful eyes of her young granddaughter, as she'd done many times before. After she applied her lipstick and started to leave, the little one said, "But Grandma, you forgot to kiss the toilet paper good-bye!" I will probably never put lipstick on again without thinking about kissing the toilet paper good-bye!

My young grandson called the other day to wish me Happy Birthday. He asked me how old I was, and I told him, 62. My grandson was quiet for a moment, and then he asked, "Did you start at 1?"

A grandmother was telling her little granddaughter what her own childhood was like: "We used to skate outside on a pond. I had a swing made from a tyre; it hung from a tree in our front yard. We rode our pony. We picked raspberries in the woods." The little girl was wide-eyed, taking it all in. At last she said, "I wish I knew you sooner Grandma!"

My grandson was visiting one day when he asked, "Grandma, do you know how you and God are alike?" I mentally polished my halo and I said, "No, how are we alike?" "You're both old," he replied.

A little girl was diligently pounding away on her grandfather's computer. She told him she was writing a story.. "What's it about?" he asked. "I don't know," she replied. "I can't read."

I didn't know if my granddaughter had learned her colours yet, so I decided to test her. I would point out something and ask what colour it was. She would tell me and was always correct. It was fun for me, so I continued. At last, she headed for the door, saying, "Grandma, I think you should try to figure out some of these, yourself!"

When my grandson asked me how old I was, I teasingly replied, "I'm not sure." "Look in your underwear, Grandpa," he advised, "mine says I'm 4 to 6."

A second year came home from school and said to her grandmother, "Grandma, guess what? We learned how to make babies today." The grandmother, more than a little surprised, tried to keep her cool "That's interesting," she said, "how do you make babies?" "It's easy," replied the girl. "You just change 'y' to 'i' and add 'es'.."

Children's Logic: "Give me a sentence about a public servant," said a teacher. The small boy wrote: "The fireman came down the ladder pregnant." The teacher took the lad aside to correct him. "Don't you know what pregnant means?" she asked. "Yep," said the young boy confidently. "It means carrying a child."

A 6-year-old was asked where his grandma lived. "Oh," he said, "she lives at the airport, and when we want her, we just go get her. Then, when we're done having her visit, we take her back to the airport."

New Secretary for 2012, Volunteer Needed

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As you may be aware, Margaret Beresford has been a most excellent Secretary for Crewe and Nantwich U3A for many years. She had indicated at the AGM that she would be retiring from that position at the end of this committee's year in February 2012.

Margaret has given excellent service to the committee and to our U3A for a long time, and is very deserving of her impending retirement as secretary.

However, a new secretary is required, to take over from the February 2012 AGM.

The position is less of a burden than might be imagined, and is a good opportunity to be at the forefront of one of the most successful U3A groups in the Country, - and Margaret will be on hand to help guide you.

If you feel you would like to "give it a go", or know someone who would be willing to take on the job, please contact either Margaret on 623816 or myself on 214695 or fill in the Nomination form. We look forward to hearing from you.

Peter Marshall

New Group - Social Activities

As many members will be aware, there is an on going series of theatre visits, outings and short breaks which are organised for our local U3A by Janice Whitmore and Shirley Agnew. Although Janice and Shirley have a regular 'clientele' for their activities, we are aware that some members may not know about their plans and only find out after the event. We have therefore set up a new 'group' on our annual programme called Social Activities. If you join this group, then Janice and Shirley will have access to your contact details, e-mail or telephone, and will be able to let you know of their planned events.

If you would like to have your name added to this new group, please contact me (djinkinson@gmail.com or 01270 651425) and I'll add you to our new Social Activities group. Or let Janice or Shirley know.

Dave Jinkinson

Genealogy

Are you afraid of delving into your past?

If not, why not see who your ancestors were. John Ferguson has some places left on his Genealogy Class starting in January.

Contact John on 665571

DAVID ESSEX – ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR
Wednesday, 25th January 2012

Cheer up those dreary January days and join us on a coach trip to Manchester's Opera House for a matinee performance of 'All the Fun of the Fair' with David Essex, preceded by lunch at Harry Ramsden's ever popular Fish and Chip restaurant on Castlemere Retail Park, Manchester.

The coach will leave from Church Lane bus stop, next to the primary school at 11.00 a.m. and arrive back in Wistaston at approximately 7.00 p.m. Cars may be safely left on the Brittles car park.

We have been able to obtain theatre tickets at a specially discounted price which makes the price of this trip very reasonable. The cost, including coach, driver's gratuity, lunch and theatre ticket is £33.00.

To book, please detach and complete the booking form and return it with your payment to Shirley Agnew, 277 Newcastle Road, Shavington, Crewe CW2 5DZ.

Janice Whitmore 01270 567924

Shirley Agnew 01270 661694

BOOKING FORM FOR 'ALL THE FUN OF THE FAIR'
Wednesday, 25th January 2012

Name(s).....

Address.....

.....

Tel:No..... Email address.....

Cost £33.00 per person

Number of Places

Total Cost.....

Please make your cheque payable to **Crewe & Nantwich U3A** for the full amount and send it with the completed booking form to:

Mrs S Agnew, 277 Newcastle Road, Shavington, Crewe CW2 5DZ

It was good to see such a good attendance again this year at the Open Day. The membership desk seemed quieter than last year but there was still a steady stream of enquiries over the two hours and we enrolled 38 new members on the day – thanks to my small team of helpers. Since the Open Day, we have had a further 54 new members join us. Although around 160 previous members have not renewed for 2011/12, we have added 271 new members in the past year, now bringing us to 1429 members attending one or more of our 93 groups.

Despite a number of new groups starting up this year, many of our groups have now reached their maximum numbers and at present there are 57 groups that are full and with waiting lists. Worryingly, and as last year, some group leaders have noted that they have yet to see or hear from some of the names who are on their group lists. Where are you?? Have you forgotten which groups you're in?? Or perhaps, more likely, other commitments have come along since you renewed your membership and you're not now able to attend your groups as you had planned. If that is the case, please spare a thought for other members who are on waiting lists – if you now find that you can't start or continue in a group, please let the group leader or myself know, as that could allow someone on a waiting list to join the group.

As last year, can I also remind you.....our current policy is that if you don't attend for more than 3 weeks, without notifying the group leader, then it may be assumed that you no longer wish to belong to the group and your place may be offered to someone else!

If you are on a waiting list, be assured that leaders have your details and will contact you if a place becomes available. At this stage of the year, leaders will have a better picture of any likely spaces in their groups than me, so if you're interested in joining an additional group, then the best approach is to contact the group leader first to check for vacancies – see your 2011/12 programme for their contact details. Of course, if you have Internet access (and 78% of you have an email address!), you can visit <http://www.creweandnantwich-u3a.org.uk/> to see the current status of all of our groups, plus other local U3A news.

AND – having mentioned that 1110 (!!!) 'silver surfer' members have an email address....please make sure you let me know if it changes!! You're probably more likely to change your email address than you are to move house – you would probably remember to let me know a new postal address but please also keep me up to date with your email address so that I (and leaders) don't get 'mail bounces' if and when we try to contact you

Finally – I hope that all members have had an enjoyable and satisfying first term. I hope that after an enjoyable 'mistletoe mingle' we will see you all again in the New Year.