

# **Crewe & Nantwich U3A Newsletter**

**Notes for your**

**2011 Diary**

**Spring Term ends**

**15th April**

**Summer Term starts**

**3rd May**

**End of academic year**

**24th June**

**Enjoy your Holiday!**

**Next Newsletter**

**Deadline 10th July**

**Open Day 19th Aug\***

**\* Note! Earlier Date**

**Autumn Term Starts**

**5th September**

## **Editorial**

For the first time in the 16 year history of our U3A, we now have a ChairMAN. Congratulations Peter, I wish you every success in your unique role, even though you seem to spend half your time in public wearing a skirt!

Also this is the first issue of the Newsletter, which hasn't been produced by Keith Noble. Thank you Keith for all your hard work, no doubt all your early issues had to be typed up. This issue has been compiled from email submissions only. Another new feature is that the Newsletter will be on our website as a PDF document, for anyone to view, the main improvement will be the quality of the photographs.

David Fishburne

# Notes from the Chair

What an excellent speaker at our AGM! David Parker's talk had us all spell-bound with his wonderful presentation. If you didn't come to the AGM, then you missed a great morning!

We now have a new committee. I'm looking forward to working with those who are continuing and those who are new to the committee. We have already revised the committee contact list, grouping classes into more logical contact groups.

We have yet more new groups in the pipeline for next season, but, of course, if you think there is a need for a new group, and know someone to lead it, then we'd like to hear from you.

Elsewhere in this newsletter you will see your U3A membership renewal form. Please don't leave it till the last minute to send it to Dave Jinkinson. He will be very busy doing a fantastic job processing all 1400 of your applications. The sooner you get your renewal in, then the better it would be for Dave (and, if you're putting your name on a waiting list, the nearer the top you will be).

Finally, may I thank the outgoing committee members, and particularly Madeline in the chair, for their excellent service, a hard act to follow. We, the new committee, felt it fitting to make a small presentation to Madeline as a token of appreciation of her leadership over the past 3 years.

## Peter.



Past Chair Madeline Downey receiving a small presentation from Chairman Peter as a thank you for her leadership over our very high growth in membership over the last 3 years. Madeline was totally surprised, but highly delighted.

**Peter Marshall – Who’s he?** A few people have asked me to give a little insight into my background. Born in the Forest of Dean soon after the war I’ll reach 65, and officially become a pensioner, later this year. I’ve been married for 40 years now. My wife, Anne, is heavily involved in the Church and is currently leading two U3A groups. We have two sons, one married and one still a bachelor. After gaining a degree, I worked in Quality Assurance in the manufacturing side of a large computer company until redundancy at around 50 - a fate handed out to many in the industry. My main tasks included identifying and resolution of problems, and ensuring systems were put in place to prevent their recurrence. This frequently involved encouraging people with considerably more knowledge or expertise in their fields than I would ever have.

Many of you probably know me through my Scottish Dancing. Indeed I thoroughly enjoy leading our Scottish Dancing group, and also teach or dance at many other groups outside of U3A. It was through this that I developed friendships with some native Japanese Scottish Dancers, and thence an interest in Japan (and so I joined our new Japanese class). A strong interest in railways and model railways has been much influenced by the Japanese systems.

I had previously served on our U3A committee, until a need to put in a lot of time caring for my father in his final years caused me to severely cut back on my activities. I then rejoined the committee about a year ago. I didn’t have a great desire to become Chairman, but understand well the need for a committee and its officers, without whom, and the group leaders of course, there could be no U3A. I will do my best, and am lucky to have a most excellent committee. I’ll probably make some mistakes on the way, but then it is often said “Experience is the name we give to our mistakes”.

### Your Website

To keep in touch with what’s going on in Crewe & Nantwich U3A visit your website regularly at [www.CreweAndNantwich-U3A.org.uk](http://www.CreweAndNantwich-U3A.org.uk) or type ‘u3a Nantwich’ or ‘u3a Crewe’ into the Google search engine.

For the website to be of use to our members it must be kept up to date with the information they need. This cannot be done unless organisers and members forward relevant information to the webmaster.

Committee members – please forward news of events; Group Leaders please check details of your groups on the website and forward any changes you require; members - if you cannot find the information you need about the groups you are interested in, then inform the webmaster or better still assist relevant group leaders to provide the information to the webmaster for publication.

**From Your Webmaster - Alan White (eMail: [AlanU3A@jalway.me.uk](mailto:AlanU3A@jalway.me.uk))**

# **U3A Friday Short Mat Bowls Group**

**17th of December 2010 - Christmas Bowls**

Heavy snow, icy pavements and bitter cold weather outside but lots of warmth, fun, good bowling and great company inside. The first term of the 2010/2011 Friday short mat bowling group at the Oakley Centre Crewe came to an end with a great morning of bowls followed by a superb Christmas buffet provided and served by the members in attendance. As always the event was overseen by our hardworking and ever cheerful group Leader - Charlie Broomhall

Unfortunately due to the severe weather and other commitments not every member of the group could attend, but 22 did make it to the final social occasion of the 2010 calendar year, which set the tone nicely for the season of goodwill but was also tinged with a slight regret that we would not resume playing again until the 14th of January 2011

Well I say 22 members attended, but we were not sure of the one wearing the Tam O' Shanter Scottish bonnet with the ginger hair and tartan scarf, although he did look remarkably like John Royle



The Friday short mat bowls group is always well attended and generates a great friendly atmosphere at the start of a winter weekend. We would like to thank the U3A for making it possible and Charlie in particular for his dedication, guidance, hard work and of course his great jokes

**Andy Mooney**

## Beginner's Bridge



September saw 26 raw beginners quietly arriving, mostly admitting they knew nothing about cards, or indeed each other.

Clubs, diamonds, hearts, spades - which are hearts? You know, the one seen on Valentine cards. Maybe you still get one!!? The red face and smile said it all! I am teased for saying "Listen very carefully, I shall say this only once" - but here we are at our Christmas get together, new friends, a diary full of more get togethers, with hotly contested games in action.

Bridge is a game of intrigue, divided into two halves, first you have an auction and then try to make the number you bid in the auction! Understand that and you are away - but this is where the lessons come in, and week by week along they come, to much excitement if they get it right - or nearly!

Bridge is more than just a game it is about bridging the gap to new challenges, friendships and fun.

Pam Parton

### **Did you know?**

This calendar year our website is averaging about 15,000 hits per month. The number of hits will rise as members begin to prepare for the next U3A year but it can do even better and be of more use to us all with your help .

### **August Newsletter**

Articles for the next Newsletter should be sent by email to [david@fishburne.co.uk](mailto:david@fishburne.co.uk) before 7th July 2011

## A Note from a retiring Committee Member

Many of our readers will be past committee members and I am sure will endorse that serving on the committee is to be recommended, particularly for newer younger members, who are not currently group leaders or over-committed in other directions.

Serving on the committee gives great insight and appreciation of all the voluntary work that goes into ensuring that we can all benefit in so many ways from such a wonderful organisation. Being on the committee is not only enjoyable but provides opportunities to get to know more members from groups other than your own, which is interesting in itself. Becoming involved does have its rewards.

If you feel that you could just squeeze a little more into your time please volunteer at the beginning of next year and “do your bit”. Without volunteers on the committee and our wonderful group leaders there would be no U3A and this would certainly be a great loss for our community.

### **Margaret Smith**

Following on from Margaret’s notes, could I put out an urgent plea for help? After many years providing most excellent tea and coffee at our U3A events, Sheila Westwood and her assistants are “hanging up the teapots” and taking a well earned retirement from this task. Would you be willing to organise, or help organise, the refreshments (doing the tea and coffee and biscuits) for these events? Or do you know someone who would? We would like to hear from you as soon as possible. It can be one of the most enjoyable tasks as you get to see everyone at these events, all of whom are always pleased to get their drink and biscuit. We look forward to hearing from several volunteers, you can contact any committee member.

### **Peter Marshall**



## **The Striders are splitting into two groups**

I will be standing down as leader at the end of June, and Isobel (Liz) Betley will be taking over in September. I would like to thank everyone who has led walks over the past two years, and for those helping me with E Mails. It has made my task so easy. I hope everyone will continue to support Liz.

It is not my intention to stop walking. I would like to set up another group, doing approximately 6/7 miles of easy walking, and meeting on alternate Wednesdays to the Striders. This might help to clear any waiting lists.

Perhaps we could call ourselves the "Pacers" ( Pacemakers would be more appropriate! Ed.) and commence in September 2011.

### **Brain McNair**



Brian McNair, David Lees and Phil Cope outside St Peter's Church, Swetenham, near Holmes Chapel. We had just been receiving one of the first walks that Brian will be leading for his new walking Group, "Pacers". Started and ended at the 16th century Swetenham Arms. 7 miles circuit round the lower Dane Valley and Swetenham Brook. Fairly described as a "Hidden Gem".

## Crown Green Bowling Summer 2011

The U3A committee have decided that Crown Green Bowling should be brought in line with other activities and operate on the basis of an upfront payment. In recognition of the fact that there is no break in the summer period, and a full payment would be prohibitive, it has been decided that payment will be in two parts.

Week commencing April 4th (the expected start date but to be confirmed) a payment of £12.

Week commencing July 4th a payment of £12. The overall payment of £24 will in fact cover the period from April 4th to 26th September a total of 26 weeks so in effect there are two free weeks.

As with other activities any member not wishing to pay up front can pay each visit but the fee in 2011 will be £2 per visit.

Alex Churm Crown Green Bowling CGB2&3

## Sewing Group

We have been meeting now for a few sessions and have made the following:

Tote bag, butcher apron, evening bag, 'tie around waist' peg bag, gift wrap holder and fascinators. We are planning to start again for six weeks starting on Friday October 21st at St Luke's Church Hall from 1.30pm to 4.00pm.

Marion Fishburne Tel. 611726

## Line Dance Charity Social

I would like to thank all the U3A Members, Friends and Visitors who supported our successful Line Dance Charity Social On Fri 14 Jan 2011 at St Marys Church Hall Wistaston, when we raised £167 in aid of Help For Heroes.

Anyone wishing to attend our friendly and helpful Line dance Classes on Monday afternoons 2-30 till 4pm would be very welcome. Come and keep fit to some nice music.

Gordon Edgley Team Leader

## Crafts 1

In September my sister Myra and I became joint leaders of the Tuesday Craft 1 group replacing Beryl Rodgers who has been the leader for the past 15 years- so a big thank you to Beryl.

The autumn term programme was well received and everyone seemed to enjoy most of the projects. To retain the interest and enthusiasm of the group we are trying to introduce a wider range of handicrafts and we are hoping that some of the ladies will come forward with some fresh ideas of their own

So happy crafting ladies  
Elaine Rathbone



## Swimming and Aqua Fit



Are you a swimmer? Were you disappointed when free swimming for the over-60s was discontinued? If so then we have some **GOOD NEWS!** We have arranged with Crewe Swimming Pool (Flag Lane) for U3A members to be able to swim for just £1.50 each Monday between 3pm and 5pm. This arrangement will start from 9<sup>th</sup> May – just show your U3A membership card at the pool reception to get your discounted swim.

We are also exploring the possibility of an Aqua Fit session for U3A members. It is likely to take some time to work out arrangements for this but, if you would be interested in joining an Aqua Fit group, please let me know. The group would of course need a leader to liaise with Crewe Swimming Pool but this would be little more than keeping a register – all of the money side of things would be managed by the pool staff. If you could be interested in helping lead such a group, then I'm waiting to hear from you!!  
Dave Jkinson (01270 651 425 or [daveju3a@gmail.com](mailto:daveju3a@gmail.com))

### Wine Appreciation 1

At our November Meeting, we had a guest speaker Peter Warburton assisted by his wife Pauline. Peter had met Hilary Roberts and the late Barbara Sandland in the Summer and he offered to bring his wines along, it was decided to go ahead with the meeting in Barbara's memory.

Peter had a selection of wines from a small wine grower in Burgundy called Gachot-Monet from the Cotes-du-Nuits. The others were from a family run winery in the South of France called Badet Clement.

Our sincere thanks go also to Sainsbury's supermarket for donating a variety of cheeses to help make our wine appreciation evening a huge success.

In January we held our annual dinner at Brookfield, when 27 members and partners enjoyed a mixture of house wines and wines selected by our leader Frank Dickin and we all drove home afterwards!

David Fishburne

# SISTER ACT

Theatre Trip on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011

Join us on a visit to see the smash hit musical comedy, Sister Act, at Manchester's Opera House.

Based on the movie of the same name, this fabulous feel-good show is coming to the Opera House direct from its record breaking run at the London Palladium where more than a million people saw the show.

We are combining this theatre trip with a visit to Harry Ramsden's for a fish and chip lunch before we arrive at the theatre for the matinee performance.

The theatre visit will take place on Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011. We will leave at 10.45am from the Brittles, Church Lane, Wistaston, although, due to the difficulty of negotiating the driveway, our coach will wait in Church Lane, adjacent to the primary school. Cars may be safely left on the Brittles car park.

The cost of this excursion is £42.00 and includes lunch, theatre ticket, coach travel and driver's gratuities. Gratuities at Harry Ramsden's are left to your own discretion.

Organisers:           Janice Whitmore (Tel: 01270 567924)  
                              Shirley Agnew   (Tel: 01270 661694)

.....  
*Please detach*

**BOOKING FORM FOR MANCHESTER THEATRE TRIP TO  
SISTER ACT  
Thursday, 6<sup>th</sup> October 2011**

Name(s).....

Address.....  
.....

## **Ballroom and Social Dancing Group**

After a slow start due to late holidays, the Ballroom and Social Dancing group, really sprang into top gear. On 6th October, we supported the Big Brew Up 2010 to raise money for the SSAFA Forces locally and with a super raffle and nice goodies to eat we danced hard and raised £122. Many thanks to all concerned for the hard work. Under the guidance of our new instructors Rosemary and Gordon Cheetham, we have been learning ( with much laughter and many attempts at perfection) some new dances, which are keeping the toes tapping. We would also like to welcome any new friends to our dancing group.

**Joan Pilkington**



## **Halle Concert Season 2011-12**

Would you like to come with us to a Halle Concert each month at the Bridgewater Hall, Manchester? The concerts take place September to May each year. Coaches depart from Nantwich, Sandbach and Crewe, and travel direct to the Concert Hall. Why not join us for the next season. For further details contact:

**Joan Williamson 01270 623246 Or Gwyneth Burrell 01270 611366**

## Introduction to Latin

USA is hoping to run a new course next year entitled 'Introduction to Latin'. This will be aimed at those who've never studied the language before, and those who have but have forgotten everything they ever learned (quite a few people like that!)

The course may be suitable for anyone who is interested in

\* linguistics (how language works)

\*the English language (vocabulary & word derivation)

\*foreign languages (especially Italian, Spanish or French)

\*medieval history (Bayeux Tapestry; memorials)

\*choral singing or theology (the Latin Mass and the Vulgate)

Anyone who may be interested or wants to find out more should contact Tony Metcalfe (01270 624850) in the first instance.

(Apologies for raising the hopes of lovers of ball-room dancing)

## New Archaeology Group?

"With such a large U3A in Crewe and Nantwich and with such a wealth of local interest, it seems a shame we have no Archaeology Group. Is there anyone out there who would be willing to lead such a group, who has a little knowledge of the subject and who could point us in the right direction? Are there any members who would be interested to attend if one were started?" If so please contact [enid.craven@btinternet.com](mailto:enid.craven@btinternet.com)

## Lesser Known Murphy's Laws

1. Light travels faster than sound. This is why some people appear bright until they talk.
2. He who laughs last, thinks slowest.
3. Change is inevitable, except from a vending machine.
4. Those who live by the sword, get shot by those who don't.
5. Nothing is fool proof to a sufficiently talented fool.
6. The 50-50-90 rule: Anytime you have a 50-50 chance of getting something right, there's a 90% probability you'll get it wrong.
7. If you lined up all the cars in the world end to end, someone would be stupid enough to try to pass them, five or six at a time, on a hill, in the fog.
8. If the shoe fits, get another one just like it.
9. The things that come to those who wait will be the things left by those who got there first.
10. Give a man a fish and he will eat for a day. Teach a man to fish and he will sit in a boat all day, drinking beer.
11. Flashlight: A metal tube used to store dead batteries.
12. The shin bone is a device for finding furniture in a dark room.
13. A fine is a tax for doing wrong. A tax is a fine for doing well.
14. When you go to Court, you are putting yourself in the hands of 12 people who weren't smart enough to get out of jury duty.

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## Why do Genealogy?

Beyond the obvious reasons of discovering who your ancestors were, there are other, more subtle but powerful reasons for conducting genealogical research. Anyone who has delved into the history of their family knows that, the more information they uncover about their ancestors, the more real, alive and fascinating these people become. The researcher begins to learn more about the times these people lived in: the social, religious, and political situations.

Several people have asked me why I do it. It is a harmless hobby with the thrill of a (slow) chase and elements of a detective story. It's also the closest most of us will ever get to a personal slice of history.

The thrill to walk where your ancestors walked. Standing in a church porch where your ggggrandmother married in 1829 and imagining her trying to straighten her veil before she went in.

The font where your ancestors were baptised, the villages where they grew up and probably struggled to survive and feed their families. Perhaps drinking in the same public house where they also quaffed a pint or two .

Discovering they had six children but three of them dying before the age of five some of diseases, like scarlet fever, which today we don't even think about.

Their children at the age of seven working down the mine.

Interested? Then why not join the Genealogy group, ideal for beginners and those who have already made a start. All you need is an inquisitive mind and some basic computer skills.

Beware though as this hobby can become very addictive. **John Ferguson**

## Today's World 2010-11

The original concept of the scientific/technical nature of the group has been modified over it's existence to encompass more wide ranging subjects. This year has even included talks on the Comprehensive Spending Review & the 2011 Budget which would have been within the domain of the now defunct Finance Group.

Here are some highlights of the year:

The Technology Forum again proved popular, answering members computer and other technical queries. The December meeting on Beekeeping by Steve Guest proved very interesting with an insight into how Steve first started in the 'hobby', now a business. A wide range of products was available, timed nicely for Christmas Presents! Cheshire Lowland Rescue Manager Ray Milne provided some humorous insights into the serious role of finding missing people, as well as practical demonstrations in the use of some of the kit.

Carol Davenport (one of our group) showed how she project managed the conversion of a 1960s bungalow into a sustainable ECO friendly home, in many areas breaking new ground with local contractors in some of the methods.

**Bryan Roe Group Leader**

**Membership Notes.....** It's now just a year since I took on the Membership Secretary role for our local U3A. It's been an interesting year, getting up to speed with the membership procedures, meeting leaders and new and old members along the way – both face to face, on the telephone and increasingly through the internet, as around 65% of our members are now 'silver-surfers' and have email addresses - and I'm sure that you all check your mailbox for U3A emails regularly, don't you? J

Our U3A continues to thrive. At the time of writing we have 1424 members, a net increase of 80 since last April. Our membership is spread fairly wide – whilst 760 members have Crewe addresses and 550 are based in Nantwich, we also have members travelling from further afield.....including Tarporley, Winsford, Middlewich, Northwich, Alsager, Stoke and Sandbach.

Members this year have attended one or more of the 87 groups that we have had in the 2010/11 programme. Whilst some have chosen only 1 group, many will attend 2, 3 or 4 with several members in the 5/6/7 range and the current record holder attending 9 groups each week!! We must be doing something right then! Some new groups have been added during the year: Drawing and Painting for Beginners, a new Fitness Suite session on Fridays, Japanese for Beginners and Singing for Pleasure. For the coming year, three new groups will be added: Bridge Intermediate, a new Walking group ('Pacers', stepping out between Striders and Strollers) and Latin, and further groups may be added before we reach our Open Day in August.

It's now time for you to renew your U3A membership for the coming year beginning in September and the renewal form is included with this newsletter. Please complete and return your renewal form as soon as possible.

When renewing your U3A membership you can renew your place in any of your current groups. Membership of current groups will only be kept for you until the end of June. If you haven't confirmed by then, it will be assumed that you don't want to rejoin your group and your place may be given to another member on your group's waiting list.

On the renewal form you can also request a place in a new group. If the group is full, applicants will be put onto a new waiting list. PLEASE NOTE: We restart all waiting lists after this newsletter has been sent out. If you are already on a waiting list, you will not be carried forward automatically to the new list and you must re-apply if you still want to join that group. And the sooner you reply the nearer the top of any waiting list you will be!

If you have decided not to continue with a particular group, then it will be very helpful if you can also note this on your renewal form.

You will find a list of all of the confirmed groups and group codes for 2011-2012 on the back of the renewal form. As far as is known, only one group from last year will not be running in the new year – Digital Imaging on Computers, whose leader is unable to continue. If anyone feels interested in taking on this group, or starting up any further groups, please contact Mike Emery, our Development Officer, or any other member of the committee.

And a final plea.....please make your cheques £15 each payable to "Crewe and Nantwich U3A" – and not to me!! And please remember to sign your cheque!!!

*Dave Jkinson – Membership Secretary*