

Newsletter

Issue No.3

September 2011

Chairman's Remarks.

Hello everybody!

I hope you all had a good summer. The U3A has remained very busy. In June we became an official affiliate of the Third Age Trust, bringing significant additional benefits to members. We were very pleased to welcome John Ellison, the North West's regional trustee, who presented us with our U3A certificate at the July meeting.



**Hello and
welcome to our
autumn
newsletter!**

The speaker that day could have kept us captivated all afternoon with her talk on bees. She was swarmed with enquiries and ran out of honey but will be happy to bring more, so look out for details on how to place an order.

The speaker from Francis House was also an inspiration and we were pleased to make a donation on your behalf. What wonderful people there are to help run these much needed hospices!

The Open Day was amazing with the hall buzzing all afternoon. I hope you found something of interest. It would not have been a success without the tremendous effort put in by so many people. A special thank you goes to the group organisers.

Great news, some day trips have now been arranged. See groups in focus (page 3) and find out more at <http://www.poyntonu3a.org.uk>

Enjoy the newsletter.

Jo Leach (chairman) email: chairman@poyntonu3a.org.uk

Hi! It's that time again! Time really does fly when you're having fun and U3A certainly fills time with some fun activities and social opportunities.

I hope you all enjoyed your U3A magazines, I certainly did. This issue we have an interesting member's view of a summer school, some regional opportunities and information on groups including some new ones. There's also three outings, so check them out.

Don't forget the comments book. We've had some constructive comments which we've taken on board and tried to act on, and also some very positive feedback on the open meeting.

Anybody wishing to contribute should email information to newsletter@poyntonu3a.org.uk

All items should be original and submitted with author's name and contact details.

My grateful thanks go to all who have contributed so far.

Joyce Horan (Editor)

Diary Dates

Monthly General Meetings

3rd Tuesday in month; 2pm Poynton Civic Hall

Guest Speakers

20th September - Anne & David Drackley – Antarctica
18th October - Roy Frost - History of Piccadilly & Market St.
15th November – Ann Metcalf – All Cakes & Ale
20th December - Christmas Special

Meet the Groups

Established Groups

STD Code 01625 unless otherwise stated

Group	Organiser	Meeting
Antiques	Judith Davis	7 th Sept - Glass : 25 st Oct - Silver
Art	David Williams Tony Worthington	Mondays 1.30-3.30 Civic Hall
Bird Watching	Peter Owen	Monthly – next meeting 30th Sept
Bridge	Dorothy Rowland	2.00 alternate Mondays Civic Hall
Cake Decorating	Ann Tofield	To be advised
Card Making	Catherine Owen	To be advised
Computing	Joan Bridge	Starts 19 th Sept 9.30-11.30 Community Centre
Concert Visits	Wendy Vigurs	Information at General Meetings or groups email
Creative Writing	Veronica O'Connor Ann Walker	Third Mon in month 1.30-3.30
Diners' Club	Jessie Monaghan	Information at General Meetings – next meal 29th Sept
DIY	Sue Badger	Starts 30 th August
Embroidery	Barbara Davies	Starts pm 2 nd Sept
Exercise Class-Postural Stability	Irene Johnson	1 st & 3 rd Wed in month, St Martin's Church Hall Starts 21st Sept
Family History	Moyna Barrott	2 gps 1 st Wed & Fri in month 2pm Poynton Community Centre
Gardening	Ruth Roberts	Ruth is contact for Poynton Home Gardeners' Club
Geology	Peter Bennett	Monthly Thurs - 22 nd Sept, 27 th Oct, 24 th Nov
German Beginners	Catherine Owen	To be advised
German Conversation	Peter Owen	Monthly – next meeting 23 rd Sept
History	Wendy Fermor	2.00 4 th Tues in month St George's Church Hall
Personal Image	Catherine Jones	Starts 23 rd Sept Civic Hall
Photography	Jan Slinn	1 st Fri in month
Pilates	Wendy Litchfield	Summer Bramhall U3A Mon 11.30-12.30 Winter Poynton U3A restart
Play Reading	Catherine Owen	1 st Tues in month 2.30pm in members' houses
Poetry	Elaine Houghton	To be advised
Reading	Iris Neale	2 nd Tues in month (group full; 2 nd group being organised)
Scottish Country Dancing	Sandy Broadbent	1.30-2.45 Wed St George's Church Hall - starts 14 th Sept
Scrabble	Dorothy Bayman	2.00 3rd Monday in month
Spanish	Wendy Vigurs	Alternate Mon 10-11.30 and Fri 11.30-1.00
Table Tennis	Janet Gill	1st & 3 rd Thur in month 2-4pm Poynton Sports Club
Theatre Trips	Elaine Roe	Information at General Meetings or groups email
Walking	Joy Bradburn	1 st Thurs in month 10am Nelson Pit Visitor Centre. Info at General Meeting and on website (next walk 1 st Sept)
Short Walks	Bob Stepto	2 nd & 4 th Tues in month Information at General Meetings and on website

If you are interested in joining any of the groups, contact the group organiser

Organiser Needed

Groups with potential members, but needing organisers:

Dancing	Discussion Group	French Conversation	Local History	Singing	Wildlife Study
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Why not play your part and become a group organiser? Email: groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk

Groups in Focus

Day trips

We are pleased to announce the following Poynton U3A Day Trips.

Our first is on Tuesday 27th September to Kedleston Hall, in Derbyshire stopping at Carsington Water first for morning coffee or tea and cake. The cost is £15 for N.T. members, for others it's £18.50 including garden entrance; the house is extra. On Thursday 27th October we are going to the waterfront area of Liverpool with its many museums, galleries and shops, cost £10, and on to Speke Hall in the afternoon. Again, the property is National Trust and entry is free of charge for members. A further trip is planned for Sunday 27th November; Christmas at Capesthorne with magical decorations, choirs and music, craft and gift fair. The price of £14.50 includes entry to hall and fair. For more information or to make a booking please come along to the General Meetings or email: daytrips@poyntonu3a.org.uk



Walking

The walking group is proving most successful with approximately 15 people enjoying each other's company whilst getting plenty of exercise. We meet on the 1st Thursday each month at the Nelson Pit Visitor Centre Higher Poynton and walk between 4 and 6 miles. The walks are varied as there is a different leader each month. Future walks are on September 1st, October 6th, November 3rd, and December 1st. Please contact Joy Bradburn

Play Reading

The Play reading Group has been running since February 2011. The first play, "The Cocktail Party", was read over two months. After that experience we felt it would be better to concentrate on one act plays which could be read in a single afternoon. As a contrast to Eliot we read a series of short comedies, a murder mystery and one based on a cruise ship. "Hand Luggage" a comedy by John Mortimer of Rumpole fame followed, then "The Bishop's Candlesticks" by Norman McKinnel. The latter was based on an incident in Victor Hugo's "Les Miserables" and was enjoyed by some and found to be sentimental by others. Noel Coward's comedy, entitled "Come into the Garden Maud", followed and was enjoyed by all. Our August play will be "The Browning Version" by Terence Rattigan who was born 100 years ago this year. In the autumn it is planned to read some favourite passages from Shakespeare. New members are always welcome and anyone wishing for more details should contact Catherine Owen

Short Walks

Walks start again on 13th September. Organised jointly with AGE UK Cheshire East as part of the Walking for Health programme these are gentle walks of about 2 miles, taking approximately one hour to one hour and a half. Meet on the 2nd and 4th Tuesday of each month at 11 a.m. at the start of a walk, or at 10.45 a.m. outside the Civic Centre, Poynton, if you need a lift or can provide a lift to the start. Information is available from Bob Stepto.

Bird Watching

In May the group visited Teggs Nose Country Park above Macclesfield where, on a beautiful day, we took a longer walk than intended and saw redstarts and a great spotted woodpecker gathering food for its family. The next outing was to Styperson Pool near Bollington which was a new area to some of our group. We much enjoyed the walk and the highlight of that trip was very good views of grey wagtails.

Our last visit before our break in August was to the Goyt Valley on another beautiful day. In general we have been very fortunate with the weather when we have had our trips. We had very good views of spotted flycatchers displaying typical behaviour by obligingly returning to sit on a dead branch in a tree before darting off to catch insects. By the reservoir we saw common sandpipers flying in to land on the edge of the reservoir and then becoming completely camouflaged on the bank.

We have a new and varied programme planned starting in September and new members are always welcome. For details please contact Peter and Catherine Owen.

Concert trips

My concert-group is now in such a position that I have two large coaches going monthly, so have plenty of spare seats for anyone who just would like to come to any single concerts. There is time up until mid-September to book series-tickets if people still want to. For booking or information contact Wendy Vigurs

Spanish

We've kept running through the summer with limited numbers, due to members' individual holidays, and look forward to getting everyone back again in September. We work through stories and exercises on the BBC languages website and through prepared discussions on specific agreed topics.

Wendy Vigurs

German Conversation

The Group meets monthly in members' homes to practise our German. We have enjoyed each others' contributions which have included viewing two members' photographs taken on holidays in Germany, viewing German television, going through topical newspaper articles, reading letters exchanged with a member's pen friend of many years and discussing our respective experiences. We try and conduct meetings in German but also try and help each other along. Anyone interested in joining is asked to contact Peter Owen

Theatre Visits

Seats have been provisionally reserved for plays in the autumn-winter season at the Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester on either the first Thursday or Friday of a run. These are preview nights with cheaper tickets. Prices are generally £20 for Thursday and £22 for Friday including transport (normally £25 and £28.50 respectively) providing a sufficient number of people are interested. A minimum of 14 people would be needed to run a minibus and 20 for a small coach. If there are not enough people to run transport, tickets can be ordered for anyone who is willing to make their own way to the theatre.

BEAUTIFUL THING by Jonathan Harvey, Directed by Sarah Frankcom, Friday 11th November

At turns tough and tender, the play combines fantasy and reality to truly capture what it is to be sixteen, in the first flush of love and full of optimism. This was Jonathan Harvey's debut play, sparking a career which has led him to be the current chief writer on ITV's Coronation Street. Cost £22 - Book and pay by 30th September

YOU CAN'T TAKE IT WITH YOU by George S Kaufman & Moss Hart, Directed by Paul Hunter, Friday 9th December

The Royal Exchange is delighted to be working this Christmas in a brand new collaboration with the acclaimed theatre company Told By An Idiot, whose uniquely inventive physical comedy will bring this classic to life! Cost £22 - Book and pay by 21st October

TWO by Jim Cartwright, Directed by Greg Hersov, Thursday 19th January

This theatrical tour-de-force is a witty, stunning and sad play in which two actors explore all the stages of love. Cost £20 - Book and pay by 2nd December

To book contact Elaine Roe. Payment must be made by the cut-off dates given for each play.

If you would like to be added to the Theatre Trips email list please send your email address to groups@poyntonu3a.org.uk with 'U3A Theatre Trips Enquiry' as the subject

Antiques

Going, going, gone!

On July 5th some members of our group went to Frank Marshalls in Knutsford to sample the delights of an auction room. We arrived early to view the lots, including silver, porcelain, china, pictures, militaria, and furniture, etc., eagerly awaiting Lot 1 at 10a.m. Hammer prices were good and two of us managed to make successful bids, not forgetting commission and V.A.T. to be added on. I think we all enjoyed the atmosphere and will certainly be back again either buying or selling.

Judith Davis

Creative writing

We meet monthly for 2hrs but hope to increase this in the future. We each read a piece of our work which usually gives rise to some discussion and often can stimulate further work. Sometimes we use a suggested topic; at others we choose our own. These are varied and may be poetry, fiction, memories, verses, reports, letters, thoughts, reactions or feelings.

We write for ourselves, adults, children, family or friends. Our aim is to encourage each other, to improve, develop and gain confidence in a friendly and supportive atmosphere. We welcome new members. No previous experience necessary; even one idea can get you started.

For further information or to discuss work please contact Ann Walker or Veronica O'Connor

News in brief

North West Region Events

Science Event in spring 2012: 4-6 talks, range of topics. Arranged by Aughton & Ormskirk U3A

Residential Easter School at Myerscough College, Bilsborrow nr. Preston in 2012 will be offering a range of courses including archaeology, creative writing, introductory Egyptology, geology, literature, philosophy, and science.

Singing Together Workshop Days; Each day will start with shared warm-up exercises, perhaps some rounds, then each choir or singing group will "share and learn" a chosen piece with all the others. The leader of each group will guide their own selection and encourage full participation from everyone. To conclude the day individual groups may choose to perform a piece of music to entertain the others. For the south of the region - Friday 14 October in the Parish Hall, Formby Village, from 10.30 a.m. - 3.30 p.m. with registration from 10.00 am. Lunch will be provided by the ladies of the Parish and the cost per head is £7. If any individual member of a U3A would like to take part on the day, perhaps with the intention of starting up their own singing group, then please contact the organiser Sue Watkinson of Aughton & Ormskirk U3A on 01695 422 423 or email wandsw@uk2.net.

Full details of all regional news can be found at nwu3a.web.officelive.com

Resignation

It is with regret that we announce the resignation of Audrey Lawson from the committee. We wish to thank her for all her hard work and support during the initial period of Poynton U3A

Holidays

A trip to Holland is being organised by Bramhall for all local groups. Details on www.bramhallu3a.org.uk

Open Meeting

What a success and fun too! 34 new members, increasing the membership to 333, and takings that will enable us to donate a significant sum to East Cheshire Hospice on your behalf. Well done everyone!

Members' Corner

I've always been fascinated by stories of King Arthur, but more so by the historical background and how a dark age tribal war lord morphed into a chivalric medieval knight. The King Arthur Summer School seemed likely to tick all my boxes. I was not disappointed. Our tutor, Allan Stevenson, a police officer by occupation, has wide ranging interests; Arthur is one of his passions.

Anyone who was expecting to be enthralled by tales of knightly exploits was doomed to disappointment. The real Arthur would have lived in the period after the Romans left. We learned of Post-Roman Britain; its tribal rivalries and alliances; the Saxon invasions and the resistance mounted by Britons. Was Arthur a resistance leader? A left over officer from Roman times, perhaps? No one really knows. The name didn't occur in literature until the twelfth century but there is no lack of speculation. We heard about a multitude of theories, until our heads were buzzing, but all ended up with our own pet ideas.

Allan discussed the written and archaeological evidence which points towards Arthur as a real person, or possibly an amalgam of different leaders, whose exploits passed into myth with the Britons who migrated to Brittany. Centuries later they returned as the Tales of the Round Table. As for Camelot, no gilded towers but probably Cadbury Hill, a huge Iron Age hill fort, later refurbished as HQ for an important leader.

If all U3A Summer Schools are as interesting as this one, roll on next summer!

Ann Walker

Can't wait to hear from others for the next publication. Entries will need to be received by 16th November.

Email: newsletter@poyntonu3a.org.uk or see me at meetings.

Joyce.