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FROM THE CHAIR

So summer has gone, the curtains need closing early and we look for our fleeces again! But there's lots to look forward to in Knutsford U3A, as you will see from this issue of Kanuta.

September is our month for renewing membership so, if you have not already done so, please use the form at the back of this edition, and send it off NOW!!

There was an excellent turnout for our Members Meeting in mid September which was for renewals in person, and in addition, 20 different Activity Groups had tables to show information about their groups and talk to people interested to know more. As well as U3A members, we also had many people coming to find out about U3A, and becoming members. The afternoon had a great buzz about it and the Co-ordinators and others taking part said they found it worked very well and was well organised and enjoyable. Several groups attracted new members, many felt it was worth doing again in future. I'd like to give a big 'thank you' to all those taking part for making it such a successful occasion. If you missed it you might like to have a look at our list of Activity Groups (in the last Kanuta and on our website), to see if you might be interested in considering something new! We know that a few groups are full at the moment, but the information in the list shows if they are. It's always worth phoning the Co-ordinator to find out more.

Inside this edition of Kanuta, you'll find reviews of Summer Schools and an outing that members have been on which I'm sure you'll find interesting to read - thank you to those who contributed.

Enjoy your next year of membership!

Christine Jones, Chair

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Knutsford Methodist Church
Second Thursday of every month starting 2.15pm

October 12th

Speaker: Judy Popley.

'Entrepreneurs. their Empires, and the rise and fall of Great British Companies.'

Massive British companies, many just a memory now, but introducing the power house of British industry from Cadburys to Unilever, Styal Mill to Saltaire.

Judy Popley is a High Legh resident and has given talks to our Local History Group, which have been extremely well received and we are very pleased that she has now agreed to be with us at the October meeting.

November 9th

Speaker: Lorraine Mayfield

'The Science of Heraldry'

Lorraine has been a tour guide at Chatsworth House for more than 20 years and is looking forward to sharing with us her passion for Heraldry.

December 14th

Speaker: Geoff Scargill

'The Last Laugh of the Railway King '

A look at the life of Sir Edward Watkin 1819-1901

Geoff Scargill has been our meeting speaker several times and we look forward to welcoming him back.

THANK YOU - The Committee and all the members would like to express their thanks to the regular Members' Meeting tea ladies, Jessie Bunyan and Margaret Olliver, for their sterling work in organising the refreshments for all the Members' Meetings.



ADVANCE NOTICE

CHETHAM'S SCHOOL OF MUSIC

A concert given by students of Chetham's School of Music will be held on **Friday 17th November 2017 at 2.30 pm** in Knutsford Methodist Church.

Tickets will cost £5 and will be on sale at the October members' meeting.

THEATRE AND MUSIC TRIPS

Autumn/Winter 2017



BOOKING

PLEASE use a **separate booking form** and a **separate cheque** (made payable to Knutsford U3A) for **each performance** and send to Mrs Margaret Hinde, 1 Warford Hall Drive, Great Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR. For further information telephone 01565 872643 or email info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk.

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OPERA NORTH AT THE LOWRY

'PAGLIACCI' & 'CAVALLERIA RUSTICANA'

'An iconic Italian Double Bill, fuelled by fatal passion and filled with gorgeously lyrical melodies'

Wednesday, 15th November, 7.15 pm
The Lowry Theatre, Salford

Cost, including transport, £ 47.00
Coach departs 5.30 pm

Apologies for the price, but good Opera is expensive!

HANDEL'S 'MESSIAH'

NB – all 50 tickets for this have now been sold

Saturday, 2nd December, 7.30 pm
Bridgewater Hall, Manchester

Cost, including travel, £30 .00
Coach departs, 6 pm.

I don't think Handel's 'Messiah' needs any introduction from me! This annual performance is one of the great Halle traditions. The Halle Orchestra, The Halle Choir and a top line of soloists will do it full justice. An uplifting evening for sure!

'GUYS AND DOLLS'

Friday, January 12th, 2018, 7.30 pm
Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester

Cost, including travel, £41.00
Coach departs 6 pm.

This well loved Broadway musical is this year's Christmas production at the Exchange – which always provide a super evening! Set in Haarlem and celebrating the high spirits of black America, it contains plenty of well known numbers, such as Luck be a Lady; Guys and Dolls, and Sit down, You're rocking the boat. Come along and party!

Tickets for all the above will be on sale at the October meeting.

OUTINGS

A FULL DAY'S VISIT TO TWO INTERESTING MUSEUMS

Monday, October 9th

We will depart from the Bus Station at 9.00 am and the cost for the whole day, including museum tours, your lunch and transport is £24.00

In the morning we are visiting The People's History Museum in Spinningfields, Manchester where we will have a guided tour and then our lunch. After lunch we go to The Jewish Museum in Cheetham Hill.

The People's History Museum defines itself as the National Museum of Democracy. First opening in Manchester in the 1980s, it received significant funding and reopened in its new modern building in 2010. It holds the largest collection of political material in Britain and a hugely varied range of objects. The core of the collection covers the fight for the vote from the early 19th century through to the suffragettes and the lowering of the voting age to 18 in 1969. They have a collection of political banners which is the largest in the world and a huge collection of political posters and more!

In the afternoon we have a much requested repeat visit to the Jewish Museum, which occupies a former large Spanish Synagogue on Cheetham Hill – a Grade II listed building. After the synagogue closed due to the migration of people away from the area it re-opened as a museum in 1984, telling the story of the history of Jewish settlement in Manchester and its community over the last 200 years. We will have an introductory talk before viewing the Museum's fascinating collection.

We should return to the bus station by 4.30 pm.

Please send a completed booking form, with your cheque made out to Knutsford U3A, to Mrs Fran Cogger, 71 Parkgate, Knutsford, WA16 8HF. Tel. 01565 228503

Visit to the MANCHESTER CHRISTMAS MARKETS

Wednesday 6th December 2017

Depart Knutsford bus station - 10am

Leave Manchester to return - 3pm

Cost £6 for return journey only. No refreshments.

Start your Christmas shopping here! Reputedly the biggest and best of its kind in the country, the Manchester Christmas Markets are the ideal destination for a festive outing. International food, drink and crafted Christmas gifts will be available to enjoy as well as the usual shops and restaurants in the area. The main hub will be, as usual, in Albert Square.

To book a seat on the bus send the completed form and a cheque for £6 per person made out to Knutsford U3A to Barbara Brady at The Paddocks, Chelford Road, Knutsford, WA16 8RD. Tel 01565 653764.

Bookings will also be taken at the October Members' Meeting.

A report on the U3A visit to Birmingham Jewellery Quarter & Birmingham Canals

On 6 September Knutsford U3A visited the Jewellery Quarter Museum where, in 1899, Mr Smith and his uncle Mr Pepper set up their jewellery business in Birmingham in an area known as the Jewellery Quarter in adjoining buildings, Nos: 78 and 79 Vyse Street. Their company became known around the world and traded from these premises until 1981. The Museum has preserved the 'time capsule' workshop and also tells the story of the Jewellery Quarter and the ancient craft skills still practised in workshops that make this area the centre of the British jewellery industry.

Our guide, Steve, brought the Museum to life with demonstrations and descriptions of the workers around the 'peg' (the kidney-shaped benches where the craftsmen worked). Authentic, grubby overalls were hung around the walls and pieces of 'gold' were there for inspection.



After our visit we went for a spot of lunch at the various local cafes in the area and then joined up to take a trip along the Birmingham Canals.

Birmingham is at the hub of the country's canal network. There are 35 miles (56 km) of canals within the city, of which most are navigable. Birmingham is often described

as having more miles of canal than Venice. This is technically correct as Venice has 26 miles.



We experienced the Industrial Heritage of Birmingham from our very comfortable seats on the canal boat, a running commentary accompanied our trip.

A super trip which was enjoyed by all. Thanks to Knutsford U3A member, Lynda Harris, for organising it.

Sandra Stonehill

Several members of Knutsford U3A attended U3A Summer Schools this year. The following accounts highlight different people's experiences of these Summer Schools but all seem to be in agreement that the Summer School experience is a valuable and interesting one.

U3A North West Region's Summer School 2017

I thoroughly enjoyed the residential summer school at Newton Rigg Agricultural College, in the delightful Cumbrian countryside; purpose built student accommodation surrounded by delightful gardens and attended by a record number of NW U3A members.

Five members of Knutsford U3A joined the summer school studying such varied topics as Architecture, Russian and Soviet culture and Ukulele for beginners, with lots of other courses available to choose from. Notwithstanding a definite drop in temperature, having left Cheshire in Summer, we arrived in Cumbria in what could only be described as a very chilly Autumn, however we soon acclimatised and added layers of warmer clothes.

Everyone was warm and friendly and I met some interesting people in a relaxed setting. Our lecturer on the Architecture course was excellent, guiding us through our built environment, from Classical to Gothic, the Georgian to the modern, with just the right amount of knowledge combined with humour.

The student accommodation on the campus was basic but adequate; however the locally sourced food was delicious. An evening trip to the Theatre by the Lake in Keswick was very enjoyable and our visit to Carlisle Cathedral to explore Early English Architecture fascinating.

A very enjoyable time was had by all and I heartily recommend it.

Veronica Gordon

U3A Summer School, Royal Agricultural University, Cirencester, 14th – 17th August 2017

This year's summer school adopted a similar four-day programme structure to previous years. Such is the popularity of these summer schools that three were run this year (previously two.) There were 7 topics being tutored on the week I was there, ranging from Garden History to Singing for Pleasure, the class I attended.

The University and its grounds provided impressive with comfortable accommodation for participants and the opportunity to have three good cooked meals a day was too much of a temptation for many. I was made welcome from the minute I arrived and staff or students were on hand to show participants to their rooms and assist with luggage if needed. I chose to drive down but those that travelled by rail were met at the local station and transported to the University. The administrators also organised shared taxis for their return journey.



On the first evening, we were provided with a welcome drink before dinner. Drinks, dinner and an after-dinner quiz provided a good opportunity to meet others, including tutors, to get an insight into the range of courses being run. The Garden History tutor told me that she learnt as much from the students as they did from her...a good example of U3A principles in practice!

Seminars were held from 9.00am through to 4.45pm with morning and afternoon coffee/tea breaks and 90 minutes for lunch. Entertainment was provided after dinner on the second evening by the Dave Ayre Trio; three highly-talented, freelance musicians playing a collection of jazz pieces from around the world.

On the last evening, we were provided with a formal farewell dinner. The closing speeches were kept short and started when the puddings had been served which meant that people could get away to socialise in the bar or, for many, to listen to the Singing for Pleasure Group perform some of their repertoire in the University's Chapel.

This was one of the highlights for me as, at the beginning of the week, I had offered to lead the Group in a warm-up session with a song, called "The Power in Me" which has simple words and actions. This song has been rewritten by the Knutsford U3A Social Singing Group to have three verses, each reflecting one word of the U3A strap line, "Learn, Laugh and Live!" The Group and the Tutor loved this song and joined in the actions with great vigour. Later in the week, the U3A National Executive Committee Chairman, Pam Jones, dropped in to visit our class unexpectedly and the tutor asked me to lead "The Power in Me" for her. Pam was most impressed and threatened to adopt the song as the U3A anthem! Well, after that there was no turning back and we performed the song at the evening concert. With 40 singers and many more in the audience all joining in with the chorus and actions we raised the roof!

On the last day, we were given a few simple songs that could be photocopied and used in our own singing groups and invited to perform to the rest of the group. Several people volunteered including a group of ukulele players! For most of the session there wasn't a dry eye in the house - mostly from sheer hilarity. The performances ranged from Hinge and Bracket style piano duets to heart-wrenching performances eg husband and wife saying/singing "You Don't Bring Me Flowers Anymore". What a great way to end a fabulous summer school experience.....highly recommended and we certainly did learn, laugh and live!

David Lee

U3A National Conference

Sandra Stonehill, who is Vice Chairman of the Hale and District U3A as well as being an associate member of Knutsford U3A, attended the **U3A National Conference which was held at Nottingham University at the end of August**. Sandra has submitted some brief notes about her experience there:

I attended two very interesting lectures: 'Weird Science: An introduction to Anomalistic Psychology' and 'Gruesome Governance' (targeted mainly at Committee members). Both were very well presented and gave us food for thought.

I also attended Workshops at the Conference including one on 'Getting involved in research and shared learning projects'. This discussed ways of encouraging members to get involved (possibly out of their comfort zone) in research projects which interest them.

In summary I would list the following as benefits of attending the annual U3A National Conference:

- Well worth the cost involved and the effort in going.
- Interesting Speakers.
- Thought-provoking Workshops.
- We had lots of fun and focused on the U3A ethos – Learn, Laugh, Live.
- It was enjoyable meeting many, many members from U3As from all parts of the country – 450 U3A members participated.
- Contacts to follow up

Sandra Stonehill

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Art Appreciation 2

Our group will be looking at Chinese art as our latest topic.
Jennifer Harrison. Tel: 01565 633578

Cycling Group

There are nine members in the group at the present time and we have managed to fit in four outings since our start up in June this year. We are a Social Cycling Group who prefer to cycle the quieter routes around Cheshire currently and to take in a café stop along the way for refreshments and a chat. We meet approximately twice a month, on the second Thursday and fourth Monday mornings. If you would like to take a little exercise with us, or just want more information, please give me a call on 01565 653309, text or call my mobile 07769 877293 or email me at patndave23@btinternet.com

Pat Lee

Coordinator

SOCIAL SINGING

Social Singing has just started up again. We are a very friendly group and we invite you to join our fortnightly singing sessions – do come along for a ‘taster’ session. You do not need to have sung in a group before; you do not need to read music; you do not have to have a good voice. All you need to do is join us and have fun singing a wide range of songs, ranging from the traditional, via Music from the Shows, to more recent pieces.

Please do not feel inhibited – have a go and get all the benefits of group singing – we have room for everybody!

Sessions last 2 hours, with a break. We meet on the 2nd and 4th Friday afternoons of each month at 2:00 pm at Knutsford Sports Club, Mereheath Lane.

If have not taken part before, please contact me, Michael Goldman, on 01565 651717 or anmic@talktalk.net. I look forward to hearing from you.

LOCAL HISTORY GROUP

From 28 September 2017 this group will meet at the Methodist Church Hall at 2.00 pm on the fourth Thursday of the month. The cost will be £3.00 per session.

28 September 2017

Talk by David Cogger – “Cheshire in the Second World War”

26 October 2017

Visit to Biddulph Old Hall – coach and tour

23 November 2017

Members’ meeting

No meeting in December

Contact – Jean Ellis

Tel 01565 651222 Email – jvellis3@yahoo.co.uk

BOOKING FORMS FOR THEATRE & MUSIC

Please:

- Write the name of the performance or outing on the back of your cheque
- Make your cheque payable to Knutsford and District U3A
- Send a stamped, addressed envelope if you want your reservation confirmed
- If you are not making a booking at a General Meeting, please use a separate booking form and a separate cheque (made payable to Knutsford U3A) for each performance and send to Mrs Margaret Hinde, 1 Warford Hall Drive, Great Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR.

You will be contacted if your booking was NOT successful.

BOOKING FORM – THEATRE AND MUSIC VISITS		
I/We would like to book places for the following event and enclose a cheque for £.....		
Event:		
Date & time:.....		
Name and Address <u>with postcode</u>		
Phone number	e-mail	Phone number in case of emergency
Please send this completed form and cheque made payable to Knutsford U3A to Margaret Hinde, 1 Warford Hall Drive, Great Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR. Tel. 01565 872643 Cheques should be made out to Knutsford U3A.		

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Booking Forms for Outings

Booking Form - Two Interesting Museums		
I/We would like places(s) for the Museums visit and enclose a cheque for £.....		
Date and Time: Monday 9th October, 9.00 am		
Name and Address <u>with postcode</u>		
Phone No	Email	Emergency phone no
Please send this completed form and cheque made payable to Knutsford U3A to Mrs Fran Cogger, 71 Parkgate, Knutsford, WA16 8HF. Tel 01565 228503		

Booking Form – Visit to the Manchester Christmas Markets		
I/We would like place(s) for the Manchester Christmas Markets visit and enclose a cheque for £.....		
Date and Time: Wednesday 6th December: 10.00 am		
Name and Address <u>with postcode</u>		
Phone No	Email	Emergency phone no
Please send this completed form and cheque made payable to Knutsford U3A to Barbara Brady, The Paddocks, Chelford Road, Knutsford, WA16 8RD. Tel 01565 653764.		

KNUTSFORD & DISTRICT U3A
MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL FORM : SEPTEMBER 2017



Subscriptions for 2017/2018 are due on the 1st September 2017

Please fill in this renewal Form and hand it in, with a cheque for £15.00 per member, £10.00 for Associate Members - made payable to **KNUTSFORD U3A** OR **POST IT to:** VERONICA GORDON, 38 CARLISLE CLOSE, MOBBERLEY, KNUTSFORD, WA16 7HD **with a stamped addressed envelope** for the return of your Membership Card.

Name (s)

Address.....

.....POSTCODE

Any changes to Telephone Number or email address

.....