

# KANUTA

The Newsletter of the Knutsford and District **U3A**

December 2016

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## FROM THE CHAIR

2016 is coming to an end, and so it's time to wish everyone a very Happy Christmas, from all of us on the Committee! With another year nearly over, I hear people saying 'where does the time go'? One good thing about time seeming to move so quickly, is that we must be busy and involved in activities and learning, which is what U3A is all about!

Thank you all for being such active members of Knutsford U3A, and I hope 2017 brings you good health, happiness and friendship.

Our Committee has 9 members, which is a healthy number, but we would be happier with another 2 or 3 members. If you might be interested in finding out what might be involved, you are very welcome to come to one of our meetings in the New Year, as an observer so you can see what we do. We meet monthly (except in December and August) on the fourth Thursday afternoon of the month. If you would like a chat, feel free to phone me on 01565 633435.

While being on a committee might not be the most exciting thing to do, I think we all feel it's interesting and satisfying to help make our organisation run well. We're quite friendly too!

Wishing you a very Happy Christmas and New Year.

Christine Jones, Chair



## HEBRIDEAN ODYSSEY HOLIDAY

**17 – 24 MAY 2017**

I thought members might like to know that the Hebridean Odyssey holiday will certainly take place on 17 – 24 May 2017. Owing to illness we have lost two couples. However we will still go ahead and the deposit cheques will go to Norman Allen later this month.

If anybody else feels like a Celtic adventure remember we have 4 vacant places.

Please contact Tim Donnelly on 01565 633569

# THEATRE AND MUSIC TRIPS

WINTER 2016/2017



## 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](mailto:info@knutsfordu3a.co.uk).

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## BEYOND THE SCORE - ELGAR'S ENIGMA VARIATIONS

**Saturday, 11<sup>th</sup> March, 7pm**  
**Bridgewater Hall, Manchester**

**Cost £30, including transport**  
**Coach departs bus station 5.30pm**

This is definitely 'Something Different!' I went to a most interesting evening last year with a similar format, which provides a fascinating insight into Elgar himself and his masterpiece, 'The Enigma Variations'. For the first half, Sir Mark Elder and the Halle will be on stage providing musical examples, with explanations from Sir Mark. This is complemented by actors playing Elgar's friends and family, with film on the Halle big screen. After the interval, Sir Mark and the orchestra give a complete performance of the work.

## CAROL CONCERT

**Sunday 18<sup>th</sup> December, 3pm**  
**Bridgewater Hall, Manchester**

**Cost £28, including transport**  
**Coach leaves bus station 1.30pm**

I still have about half a dozen tickets left for this popular Sunday afternoon concert, and I can probably get more. Do come! Maybe bring a grandchild or two? as the delightful Halle Children's Choir will be performing alongside the Halle Youth Choir and the Halle Choir itself, supported of course by the Halle Orchestra and even the audience! A lovely way to start Christmas.

## SWEET CHARITY

**The well-loved 1960's musical**

**Wednesday, 18<sup>th</sup> January, 7.30pm**  
**Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester**

**Cost £36, including transport**  
**Coach departs bus station 6pm**

I have sold 64 tickets for this in the first ten days of offering it and I now only have one left! Though I may be able to get more, and I will check if anyone is interested.

Tickets are available now, either by sending a cheque, payable to Knutsford U3A, to Margaret Hinde, 1 Warford Hall Drive, Great Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR. Tel: 01565 872643. Or they will be on sale at the Monthly Members Meeting on Thursday, December 8<sup>th</sup>.

## MEMBERS' MEETINGS

All meetings are held at Knutsford Methodist Church  
on the second Thursday of the month at 2.15pm

**December 8<sup>th</sup>      Speaker: David Cogger**  
**“Historical Half Truths”**

David is one of our members, a retired history teacher and Deputy Head who runs a “Random History” group for Sandbach U3A, giving regular illustrated talks to members at Sandbach.

**January 12<sup>th</sup>      Speaker: Ed Glinert**  
**“Marx and Engels in Manchester”**

Ed Glinert is a man with many strings to his bow. He has been a journalist with 10 years at Private Eye. He founded City Life and was an editor on the rock n’ roll magazine Mojo. He has been involved in different aspects of the publishing world and is the respected author of a number of books. His most recent work is the Manchester Compendium which has been called in the press “a superb work of in-depth research” (Independent). Ed has also been described as one of the country’s most prolific and entertaining registered guides, working in Manchester, London and Liverpool.

He has also given talks for many years, giving illustrated presentations at many venues in Manchester and London. His knowledge of Manchester and its history is prolific and it has been said that he has a dry Northern wit — although he was actually born in London.

With a colleague Ed is now responsible for New Manchester Walks, giving tours and canal cruises in Manchester.

His talk on “Marx and Engels in Manchester” promises to be informative, entertaining and intriguing.

**February 9<sup>th</sup>      Speaker: Diana Leitch MBE FRSC**  
**“The Science of Chocolate: Food of the Gods”**

Diana Leitch is a world-renowned scientist with a background in chemistry. After her studies in Edinburgh, she has worked in both industry and academia, handling chemical information and being involved in the digital revolution.

She is a Fellow of the Royal Society of Chemistry and was awarded the MBE in 2014 for “Services to Chemistry”. She has been Deputy University Librarian at Manchester University and Associate Director of the John Rylands Library in Manchester. Since her retirement Diana has pursued her two interests: researching local history and promoting public interest in science. She strives to involve the public, particularly children, to share her passion for science, especially chemistry. With this in mind she is now a Trustee of the Catalyst Museum in Widnes. This is the only Discovery Centre in the UK to specialise in Chemistry.

## FINAL REMINDER

**Please be aware that if your membership is not renewed by 31<sup>st</sup> December your name will be removed from the membership list.**

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### **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL – September 2016 to 2017 – REMINDER**

To renew your subscription please use the renewal form below and send it, with your cheque for £15 per member and a stamped addressed envelope for your membership card(s) to our Membership Secretary: **Veronica Gordon at 38 Carlisle Close, Mobberley, Knutsford WA16 7HD**. If you prefer, you can renew in person at the meeting on 8<sup>th</sup> December.

#### **Membership Renewal: 2016/2017**

Please find enclosed my cheque (payable to Knutsford U3A) for: 1-2 (Select as applicable) members @ £15 each - £ ..... together with a SAE for my/our membership card(s)

Name(s) .....

Address .....

..... Postcode ..... Telephone .....

Email address(es) .....

.....

## VISIT TO MANCHESTER CENTRAL LIBRARY

**Wednesday, 8<sup>th</sup> February 2017**

On 8th February next year we propose to visit the Manchester Central Library, with a Blue Badge Guide, then a buffet lunch in Manchester and then the bus will take us to the Manchester University Museum in Oxford Road.

The cost will be £23. This will be limited to a maximum of 35.

Tim Donnelly will open the bookings at the December Members' Meeting.

## U3A Summer School 2

Cirencester

15<sup>th</sup>-18<sup>th</sup> August 2016

I arrived at the impressive buildings and grounds of the Royal Agricultural University in the middle of a glorious summer afternoon to register and collect the keys to my accommodation for the next three days. Registration was well organised with porters and guides available to help with luggage and show us to our rooms, which were dispersed among several housing blocks on the campus. We had time to freshen up and familiarise ourselves with the campus before attending the first seminar for one hour at 5pm, followed by welcome drinks at 6.45pm and dinner at 7.30pm.

I was the only representative from Knutsford U3A among about 300 delegates, but soon got to meet others from all over the country and on varying courses. My first impression, which was borne out for the rest of the week, was one of warm and welcoming friendliness from staff and participants alike. I was attending the "Singing for Pleasure" class, which was one of nine classes on offer ranging from "Solving Cryptic Crosswords" through "The History of Ideas" to "Garden Design".

Although some of the subjects on offer did not interest me, I got the impression that those attending them found them all to be stimulating and an enjoyable experience. My singing group was great fun, challenging at times, but in a very supportive environment. We put on a short concert after the gala dinner on the Wednesday evening, which was housed in the beautiful chapel on the campus. Audience participation was mandatory for some of the more light-hearted and familiar songs and everyone had a great evening.

We had been entertained the previous evening by a jazz/folk trio of highly talented professional musicians who provided a varied programme from simple traditional folk songs to complex jazz versions of more modern tunes. I am not a fan of jazz but found their renditions to be easy on the ear and so impressive to watch, making the evening a delight.

My overall impression of the Summer School was "fantastic". Set in a fabulous location with good and plentiful food, adequate and comfortable facilities with free gym and free Wi-Fi if you are desperate to keep in touch with the outside world! It hit all the U3A strapline buttons: I had **Learnt** a lot; I had **Laughed** even more; and came away having made so many new friends and a feeling of **Living** life to the full! I shall certainly be going again! For anyone else interested, the programme for next year will be published in December in Third Age Matters and on the National U3A website. It is advisable to book early as many of the courses are very popular and numbers are limited...perhaps I will see you there!

David Lee

# NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

## LOCAL HISTORY

26 <sup>th</sup> January	Cheshire Canals	Speaker Ian Moss
23 <sup>rd</sup> February	Stately Homes and their Estates	Speaker Judith Popley
23 <sup>rd</sup> March	Members' Meeting Presentations on aspects of Knutsford's History	

Further details will be given at meetings or by email. Contact: Jean Ellis 01565 651222

## MAH JONG

The Mah Jong group which meets on the 2nd and 4th Friday morning each month now has spaces available. We welcome both complete novices and more experienced players and meet in the side room attached to Plumley Methodist Church.

Please ring Sue Lawson on 01565 734366 for more details.

## SOCIAL & FAMILY HISTORY (Formerly Family History Group)

The Social & Family History Group meet on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month at 2pm Room 4, The Methodist Church and we would welcome new members.

Friday 13 <sup>th</sup> January	Irish ancestors Andrea and Ann will lead this session.
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> February	Valentines Joan will bring fascinating insights into the origins of Valentine customs.
Friday 10 <sup>th</sup> March	Using Ancestry and Find my Past- workshop Allan and Tricia (and others welcome) will set up Ancestry and Find my Past to demonstrate how each works and help resolve gaps in knowledge.

For further information please contact Co-ordinator: Andrea Lord Tel: 01565 872295

## SOCIAL SINGING

The Social Singing group is now well established, meeting at Knutsford Sports club on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays each month at 2.00 pm. We now have over 20 members – but the more the merrier and we do have fun singing from a wide selection of songs. There is no intention to rehearse for public performance and so it is not vital to attend every session – just turn up and sing!

For more details see the Knutsford U3A web site entry, or contact Michael Goldman on 01565 651717.....the Cheshire hills are Alive to the Sound of Music.....

## **NEWS FROM THE GROUPS**

### **TAI CHI**

The Tai Chi group meets on Thursdays from 4pm to 5pm at the Knutsford Sports Club on Mereheath Lane.

With our excellent tutor, we practise Qi Gong exercises. These include breathing and meditation exercises to help to reduce stress; and low-impact physical exercises using the muscles of the whole body to improve core strength, balance and flexibility. No previous experience is necessary and no special equipment is required.

We have a few spaces at the moment. If you are interested, please contact Yvonne Baker (01565 651204) or Evelyn Flett (01565 653048).

### **WRITING FOR PLEASURE**

The Writing for Pleasure group now has room for 2 new members. It meets on the third Wednesday each month in members' homes to listen to each other's short stories in a very light-hearted and friendly atmosphere. For more details see the Knutsford U3A web site entry, or contact Michael Goldman on 01565 651717.

## **MUSIC IN THE AFTERNOON**

**Friday, 11<sup>th</sup> November 2016**

The Music Appreciation Group held a "Music in the Afternoon" concert on Friday 11<sup>th</sup> November which featured pupils from Chetham's School of Music.

U3A members filled the Methodist Church and were treated to a delightful musical afternoon by the young musicians led by Martyn Parks.

We were entertained by five soloists on violin, cello, trombone, oboe and flute with piano accompaniment by Martyn. The ages ranged from 13 -18 and all introduced their pieces and were very accomplished.

A wide programme of music including Mozart Concerto No.2 in D Major KV211, Bach Suite No.3 for solo cello in C major & Poulenc Sonata for Oboe and Piano but also lesser known works by such as Nigel Hess Theme from 'Ladies in Lavender' and Casterede Sonatine for Trombone and piano.

We wish them all the success for the future which, on the strength of this programme, they all truly deserve.

Many thanks to all involved in the afternoon.

Susan Hopkin

## BOOKING FORM 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.

**We will contact you if your booking was NOT successful**

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### Booking Form

I/we would like ..... place(s) for the following event and enclose a cheque for £ .....

Event .....

Date and Time .....

Name & Address with postcode .....

.....

Phone number..... E-mail .....

### KNUTSFORD LIBRARY – NEW MEETING VENUE

Any new or existing U3A group looking for a free venue for their meetings would be very welcome at Knutsford Library. We can offer:-

- ❖ A central location in Knutsford on Toft Road with parking at Booths supermarket and close to the town's bus and rail stations.
- ❖ Although we do not have a separate meeting room we have two areas within the library suitable for use by small groups. The first area has 5 tables seating around 20 people suitable for table activities such as card or board games, craft activities, calligraphy etc. We also have a more relaxed discussion area with easy chairs and small tables more suited for book groups, poetry readings, knitting / embroidery and discussion groups. This area can accommodate around 12 people.
- ❖ As the library is open plan we couldn't accommodate "loud activities" such as singing or table tennis and we have no audio/visual equipment for regular presentations although the odd speaker would be fine if they did not require the use of audio/visual aids. We do have 8 public computers which are free to use for an hour if you join the library.
- ❖ We have toilet facilities and can offer light refreshments for a nominal fee of £1.
- ❖ We are open Monday to Saturday mostly 9 to 5 but with half day closing on Wednesdays and Saturdays. We have extended opening on Tuesdays and Thursdays until 7pm.
- ❖ We currently have the U3A Canasta and Scrabble groups using the library on Thursday mornings and Friday afternoons, and we do run a few groups ourselves, so please contact us to check if your preferred day and time can be accommodated. Morning slots are generally no problem.

If you would like to come and have a look at the facilities please just drop in. If you have any further queries or would like to check that we can accommodate your class or group then please contact the Library Manager (Mike Drew) on 01625 374873 or email [knutsford.library@cheshireeast.gov.uk](mailto:knutsford.library@cheshireeast.gov.uk)