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FROM THE CHAIR

Knutsford and District U3A is now 12 years old! We have grown to 661 members and 52 thriving Activity Groups, with another 6 new ones in the pipeline. We have an excellent variety of popular outings and theatre trips and our monthly Members Meetings are becoming really well attended with a brilliant programme of speakers lined up for the rest of this year- and for 2018 as well!

None of this happens by magic. In my first year as Chair I have come to know so many members who give so much of their time and energy to make our U3A vibrant and successful. We recently held a network session for all the Co-ordinators and key supporters such as the members of the Outings and Speakers Committees, the technical teams, refreshment co-ordinators, and those with individual key roles as well. Some of these star people have more than one role! It was a lively and buzzy day with so much valuable sharing of ideas, information and experience. We may be in our third age, but there is no shortage of inspiration, effort, willingness to learn and keep things moving on, even when the knees creak a little, especially in the mornings!

I would like to thank all of these members and my colleagues on the Committee for their hard work and time and for their support to me in my first year of being Chair. We have become a good team, and to my surprise, I rather enjoy it! Though there have been moments..... I want to thank John Funnell and Veronica Gordon for agreeing to continue in their roles as Treasurer and Membership Secretary, giving us great continuity and solid expertise for these key roles. Thanks also to Tricia Pepper for having been a valuable committee member for the last 3 years and being willing to stay involved in another capacity. We now look forward to welcoming three new members to our Committee team, bringing us up to full strength.

Several previous Committee members have been so generous with their time and wisdom to help me in my first year as Chair and I am very grateful to them. I feel it is a great strength of our U3A that there are so many members who continue to give their time and experience in a variety of ways and in supporting new people in new roles – thank you all!

Christine Jones, Chair

Knutsford U3A “Old School” Shared Learning Project (SLP)

The “Old School” project commenced last September with a call for participants and helpers from the U3A and other communities in Knutsford. The aim was to carry out a social experiment by providing the opportunity for retired members of the community to meet with students from Knutsford Academy (years 9-10) on a weekly basis in a safe environment. The formula was that used by Oxford Academy earlier in the year following which their “Old School” was aired as a BBC series with the Hairy Bikers (some clips are still available on iPlayer.)

The first term was spent carrying out security checks, providing safeguarding training and pairing up the Senior and Student Partners using some ice-breaking activities. Spring Term comprised 12 Senior Partners meeting with their Student Partners, one to one, in the Academy for one hour each week. Activities included Senior Partners being shown by their respective Student Partners some of the work carried out at the school. Progressively through the term, both Senior and Student Partners contributed to a “Now and Then” wall board, which provided contrasts between schooling, clothing, housing, transport, sports and other matters as they are today and as they were in the Senior Partners’ schooldays. A range of measures and observations were made before, during and after the series of meeting sessions to assess the impact and value of the intervention on the participants. The results are not surprisingly varied across the Partners but it is generally agreed that the experience was very enjoyable and educational among both Students and Seniors. Many of the Seniors have continued to meet with their Partners and other students through the Summer Term and several have expressed their desire to participate in future “Old School” Partnerships.

The detailed assessment of the outcomes was in progress as this article went to press. But the results so far are extremely encouraging and individuals’ feedback has convinced the project team to run “Old School” again next academic year. The Project has been the first U3A SLP of its kind in the UK and we shall be preparing a report describing how it operated and the benefits that arose from it for all to see. One recommendation will be that other U3As link up with their local schools and operate “Old School” in their own districts.

Knutsford U3A General Meeting - Thursday 8th June

The “Old School” project will be described in more detail at the June General Meeting after the main speaker. We hope to have some of the Student and Senior Partners present to tell the audience how much they enjoyed the experience and what they learned from it. We will also start the recruitment process for the next “Old School” and will provide the opportunity to register interest and ask any questions about the process.

The Old School Great Get Together – 2-4pm Saturday 17th June

The Nation is holding “Great Get Together” events through the weekend of 16-18th June in memory of Jo Cox (see www.greatgettogether). As the aim of “Old School” is to bring two communities together, we are holding a Tea Party for Academy students and Knutsford retirees as part of this national initiative. It will be held in the Cranford Suite of the Curzon Cinema with refreshments provided and will be free to attend but will require pre-registration. This can be completed at the June General Meeting.

David Lee

MEMBERS' MEETINGS

Knutsford Methodist Church
Second Thursday of every month starting 2.15pm

Date	Speaker
June 8 th	Keith Birkett The History of Robert's Bakery. Keith Birkett will be delivering the history of this well-known local bakery, where he has worked in various roles for 45 years.
July 13 th	Nigel Daley A Life in Ruins This is the story of the first 10 years of the restoration of Biddulph Old Hall and what was uncovered of previous owners. Nigel is the head of the award winning Knutsford Architectural Design Practice, specialising in the restoration of period properties.

THERE WILL BE NO MEETING IN AUGUST

September 14th	Subscription Renewal Day There will be no Speaker at this meeting, but an opportunity to renew your annual subscriptions. We will be having tables in the main church for the Activity Groups so that members (and the public) can have a chance to find out more about what the different groups do. Further details to follow.
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ADAM KEPPEL-GARNER

I am sure most of you will have seen the review/appreciation of Adam's talk to the Members Meeting , on the Clubs and Societies page of the Knutsford Guardian that was published on April 27th. Much as I would like to take the credit for this excellent and very well written account, that actually has my name as the author, I would like to make sure everyone knows that it was in fact Lynda Harris who wrote this piece. Thank you Lynda !
Carole English

Gift Aid

The issue of charities being eligible and claiming Gift Aid is a complex one, and has consumed a great deal of Committee time over many years. Some U3As successfully claim it, some have decided not to apply for it, and some are in the lengthy process of establishing eligibility and making a claim. Knutsford U3A made a claim in 2013 which was turned down, and the Committee has continued to work on the issue until now.

There are complications around members whose income means they pay no income tax, and potentially for those who may be high rate tax payers. A new regulation has come into force requiring each individual member to say they accept personal responsibility for their claim being accurate when completing their membership form. HMRC could contact members who have agreed to Gift Aid, but should not have done so, if they are not tax payers. HMRC could then require a payment from the member. This may well deter some members from signing up for Gift Aid.

The HMRC system has become more complex over the years, now seeming to be principally designed to prevent fraudulent claims, rather than to help charities. The process is now an online system that requires an advanced level of technical skill and determination to navigate.

The Committee works hard for the membership, but we need to balance the various calls on our U3A time, and our personal time. We are volunteers! We also need to bear in mind the workload and skill requirements for future Committee members.

Knutsford U3A is in a healthy financial situation, and has adequate reserves. The Committee have taken the unanimous decision not to take the work on Gift Aid any further, at this stage. Our membership application forms no longer ask people if they wish to sign up to Gift Aid. This decision was taken after a great deal of research, consultation and discussion over a long period of time. Should a future Committee wish to restart the process, they would be able to do so at any time.

Christine Jones, Chair

THEATRE AND MUSIC TRIPS

SPRING/SUMMER 2017

BEETHOVEN AT THE BRIDGEWATER HALL

Friday, 1st September at 7.30 pm
Coach departs 6 pm.

Bridgewater Hall, Manchester
Cost, including transport, £35.00

Beethoven's wonderful Violin Concerto followed by his Symphony No 4. Pinchas Zukerman, one of the greatest violinists of his generation, joins Manchester Camerata for this exciting performance.

To confirm my reservation of excellent centre stalls seats, for what I am sure will be a popular concert, I have to pay for them by the end of June. So please make sure I have your booking by June 16th.

Please send cheques (made out to Knutsford U3A) and booking form for the above event (see last page of Kanuta), to Margaret Hinde, 1 Warford Hall Drive, Great Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR. Tel. 01565 872643. Please write the name of the visit you have booked on the back of your cheque. If you choose to send a stamped, addressed envelope, we will confirm your reservation, otherwise you will only hear from us if your booking was NOT successful.

Tickets will also be available at the June General Meeting.

OUTINGS

TWO CONTRASTING VISITS IN ONE DAY

Catalyst Science Discovery Centre and Museum, Widnes

Norton Priory Museum

Tuesday 18th July

Cost £25, including coffee on arrival and lunch, admission to both venues, introductory talk and transport. Coach leaves Knutsford Bus Station at 9.15 am

In the morning we visit the Catalyst Science Discovery Centre and Museum at Widnes – a unique centre which provides scientific and engineering experiences for all ages, with an emphasis on chemistry and how its products are used in our everyday lives. As a bonus, from the fourth floor there are spectacular and fascinating views of the new bridge being built close by across the Mersey. (Don't worry – there is a lovely glass lift!)

We have lunch at the impressive new visitor centre at Norton Priory Museum and Gardens where we spend the afternoon. Thanks to a £4.5m Lottery grant the brand new museum now covers the 900 year history of the site and displays many objects found there. Outside are the Priory ruins and, a short walk away, the Georgian walled garden, one of Cheshire's 'Gardens of Distinction'.

To reserve your place on this visit please send a booking form (see last page) and cheque to Margaret Hinde, 1 Warford Hall Drive, Great Warford, Alderley Edge, SK9 7TR. Tel. 01565 872643. Please write the name of the visit you have booked on the back of your cheque. If you choose to send a stamped, addressed envelope, we will confirm your reservation, otherwise you will only hear from us if your booking was NOT successful. Alternatively, bookings will be taken at the June Monthly Meeting.

VISIT TO BIRMINGHAM

Wednesday 6th September 2017

We will leave Knutsford Bus Station at 7.45. This unusually early start will give us the best chance of arriving in Birmingham in good time, after a comfort break near to the city.

Our first destination is the Museum of the Jewellery Quarter where we will have refreshments and a guided tour of this remarkable museum which reveals the City's jewellery and metalworking heritage and includes demonstrations of traditional jewellery making. Our coach then takes us to the Gas Street Canal Basin where we will have lunch. This could be in one of the many eateries in the area (details will be provided on the day) or you could provide your own picnic.

In the early afternoon we board our special chartered narrow boat for an hour long cruise along the City Heritage Route of canals. It covers the Oozells Street and Icknield Port loops of the original James Brindley Canal, a section of the Sir Thomas Telford's Main Line and the area around the National Indoor Arena and the International Convention Centre before going through the Worcester Bar at Gas Street Basin and turning to disembark at the ICC.

Our coach will meet us at the end of the tour and we aim to leave at 4.00 pm, again stopping outside the City for a comfort break. We should be back in Knutsford by 6.00 pm.

The cost is £30 and this includes the coach travel, the guided tour, a guide book and refreshments at the Museum and the guided tour on the narrow boat. Lunch is not included. We are restricted in numbers for the Museum and Narrowboat but have spare capacity on the coach if anyone would like 'to do their own thing' in Birmingham for £15 per person.

To book please send the completed booking form (see last page) and a cheque made payable to Knutsford U3A for £30 or £15 per person to Lynda Harris, 10 Lindop Close, Knutsford, WA16 8AY. Tel 01565 621058.

Please write the name of the visit you have booked on the back of your cheque. If you choose to send a stamped, addressed envelope, we will confirm your reservation, otherwise you will only hear from us if your booking was NOT successful. Bookings will also be taken at the Members' Meeting on Thursday 8th June and 13th July.

If you make a booking for either of these outings please keep these details for future reference

Outing date for your Diary

Monday, October 9th A visit to the People's History Museum, Spinningfields, Manchester and, after lunch, to the Jewish Museum, Cheetham Hill, Manchester. Details in August/September

Theatre Dates for your Diary

Saturday, October 14th Another popular Saturday matinee visit to Theatre Clwyd , with time to have your lunch beforehand.
Either: 'The Rise and Fall of Little Voice' in the large theatre or 'Uncle Vanya' (Chekov) in the smaller theatre. Your choice!

Saturday, December 2nd 'Handel's Messiah' with The Halle in The Bridgewater Hall.
7.30 pm

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Bridge Group

We are now a duplicate playing group every Friday. We meet at 10am (If interested, please arrive by 9.45). We also do tuition play on a number of subjects starting at 9.15 am (please arrive around 9.05/10) this enables us to have a half hour of tuition before the duplicate session starts at 10 am.

We have an excellent tutor in Paul Mathews who is covering a number of relevant subjects before we commence duplicate play.

Jenny Saint, Bridge Group Co-ordinator

Tablet Group

I am sorry to have to say that the Tablet Group is winding up. It has been quite a struggle this year to maintain a reasonable membership and now it is reduced to 4 members we have decided to close down the Group. There are 4 members who would like to continue if more people join, say in September. A new co-ordinator will be needed as I will not be continuing in this role.

The group has attracted a lot of beginners and people who know a little about how to get the best from their tablets but we need someone who can lead us on to explore other things to do. Unfortunately none of us are sufficiently experienced to do this and I believe this is why so many have left the Group.

If there are members who would be interested in restarting the Group in September please contact Margaret Wilford , Groups' Supporter, on 01565 654689.

Margaret Burke

Writing for Pleasure

Writing for Pleasure is a small group, started in 2009, which meets on the 3rd Wednesday morning each month. We each write a short piece and read it out. The meetings are very friendly and you will develop your writing skills with time, while enjoying the work of others. You are welcome to attend, without writing anything, before taking the plunge. Creativity is not needed to start – but develops – surprise yourself and come along and have fun.

Please contact Michael Goldman on 01565 651717 for further details.

Local History

Thursday 22nd June Talk – 'Cheshire Rivers' by David Cogger

No meetings in July and August

Thursday 28th September Talk: 'The Holcrofts of Vale Royal' by Tony Bostock

Thursday 26th October Visit to Biddulph Old Hall (please note: there is a talk on Biddulph Old Hall by Nigel Daly at the Members' Meeting on Thursday 13th July).

Thursday 23rd November Members' Meeting

Contact: Jean Ellis 01565 651222

NEW GROUPS UPDATE

Proposed New Book Group

One of our members has kindly offered to be co-ordinator for a new Book Group.

Should you be interested please contact Julie Carmichael Spencer on 07753808474

Possible New Activity Group

A suggestion has been put forward that some members might be interested in a 'football outing group'. Visits could be made, say every two months, to local clubs (within a twenty-five mile radius. This would be unlikely to include Manchester United or Manchester City because of cost and availability of tickets.

It is appreciated that the season is nearly over but it would be nice to have it set up for later in the year.

Bill Tegner has kindly offered to be the co-ordinator and, if you are interested, you should contact him on 01565 754918.

Walking Football

This group is up and running and would welcome new members who wish to join us.

Two of the initial four sessions have already taken place and were enjoyed by those who attended. Two more sessions have been arranged on Tuesday 30th May and Tuesday 13th June from 2.00 to 2.45pm. The sessions are held on 3G AstroTurf pitch at Egerton Youth Club, Mereheath Lane, Knutsford.

There seems to be sufficient interest for the Group to continue so the intention is to arrange further sessions, details to be confirmed.

Stuart Allan 01565 632904.

Gardening Group

Please come along if you are interested in joining this group. We are meeting at Fryers Nursery on Thursday 1st June at 2.15pm. Pam Bolland 01925 653391

Cycling Group

The cycling group went on their inaugural bike ride on Monday 22nd May. They cycled from Knutsford to The Plantation for coffee and returned via a different route.

The next ride will be on Thursday 8th June, starting from the Knutsford entrance to Tatton Park, meeting at 10.00 am.

If any new members wish to join us please phone Pat Lee on 07769 877293 or email patndave23@btinternet.com

Architecture Group

Architecture- will hold their first meeting on Tuesday afternoon, July 4th in the Council Offices. Further dates and venue to be decided.

Contact Stuart Allan 01565 632904

Booking Form – Beethoven at the Bridgewater Hall		
I/We would like places(s) for Beethoven at the Bridgewater Hall and enclose a cheque for £.....		
Date and Time: Friday 1st September, 6.00 pm		
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.		

Booking Form – Catalyst Centre/Norton Priory		
I/We would like places(s) for the Catalyst Centre/Norton Priory visit and enclose a cheque for £.....		
Date and Time: Tuesday 18th July, Knutsford Bus Station 9.15 am		
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.		

Booking Form - Birmingham		
I/We would like places(s) for the Birmingham visit (coach and tour/coach only) and enclose a cheque for £.....		
Date and Time: Wednesday 6th September, 7.45 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 Lynda Harris, 10 Lindop Close, Knutsford, WA16 8AY. Tel: 01565 621058.		