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## **May 2015**

### **First Aid**

The St John Ambulance organisation has agreed with U3A North West Region to provide a number of 3 hour essential First Aid courses at a reduced cost.

Two such courses will be taking place in Crewe between 10am and 1pm on the following dates

**Wednesday 10 June Course Reference: CHS15G0399**

**Friday 31 July Course Reference: CHS15G0400**

at

**St John Ambulance  
St Paul's Street  
Crewe  
CW1 2QA**

The courses are exclusive to U3A members and are limited to 14 participants. If you would like to participate, please contact St John Ambulance Training Department on 0161 443 0106 between 9am and 5pm Monday to Friday. Quote the course reference for the course you wish to attend and give your U3A membership number. Payment will be taken at the time of booking by credit or debit card and you will receive confirmation of booking by email or post. The cost is £5 per person. It has been agreed that Sandbach and District U3A will reimburse the fee on application to the treasurer.

### **Social mornings**

Please would you note that no further social mornings will be held until September.

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**To contact Sandbach U3A**

Phone: 0844 58 60670 (Calls cost 5p/min. Leave a short message and we will ring you back)

Email: [SandbachU3A@hotmail.co.uk](mailto:SandbachU3A@hotmail.co.uk)

Newsletter items should be sent to Alan Butler (alangbutler@yahoo.co.uk or phone 077148 11008) by the end of the third week of each month.

Details of dates, times, venue and speakers at future social mornings will be provided in due course..

I am sure that all those members who attended the last meeting on May 11<sup>th</sup> will have enjoyed the performance given by the choir and thanks go to Norman Satterthwaite and his singers for providing such good entertainment.

## **Sandbach U3A Ukulele Group – First “gig” report**

In the three and more years since the group was formed, we have only played for folks other than ourselves on two occasions. The first was a couple of Christmases ago when we played a few numbers and Christmas carols for the group who meet at Elworth Methodist Church on the same evening as we do.

The evening was a success and, being on “home turf” helped to calm the nerves.

The second foray was at the U3A coffee morning earlier this year when we did a little spot alongside Keith Haines from the Guitar Group. The encouraging response boosted our confidence and growing determination to share our talents and enthusiasm further afield.

Pat Howells (our administrator and now agent) approached the organisers of the Saturday Luncheon Club which meets in the Community Room in Union Street to see if they would be interested in a little free entertainment after one of their gatherings.

The offer was accepted and we duly set about rehearsing for this, our first real “gig”, which took place one Saturday evening at the end of March.

We chose a baker’s dozen of familiar songs, all of them well enough known for a good sing-along. Weeks of rehearsals followed, and the evening of the “gig” was soon upon us.

We had seen posters for the evening and joked that, in addition to the usual meal and bingo games, there would be “entertainment”. That was US! No pressure then...

We needn’t have worried. We arrived at the hall when the bingo was coming to an end and set about arranging our stands and instruments. There was a really friendly atmosphere in the room and the luncheon club members were clearly very relaxed in each other’s company. That helped us to relax a little too.

We explained, briefly, who we were and that we had chosen songs that we hoped they would be able to sing along to. They could. We soon realised that one member of the club, Christine, has a particularly beautiful singing voice and she did a reprise of one of our numbers as a solo. Audience participation was definitely not a problem.

What we thought would be a half hour spot grew to be about an hour, but the time had flown. What a wonderful evening we had. Was it worth the time and effort practising? Definitely! Would we do it again? For sure! (They sent us a card to say “thank you” and that they hope we will go again before too long). Would we recommend other groups to do the same thing? Definitely for sure!

What did we learn from the evening? Well, we learned that we can put together and successfully perform an enjoyable programme of songs and have a good time. More importantly, on reflection, we were reminded that there are groups of volunteers out there working tirelessly and selflessly to bring a little joy and companionship to others.

We hope that we gave the Luncheon Club organisers’ morale a well-deserved boost too.

**Bryan Roberts**

## **Xmas party**

It is proposed to hold a Christmas party this year at Crewe Golf Club on Friday 18<sup>th</sup> December.

If any groups (or individuals) would like to attend, please contact Alice Holmes at **SandbachU3A@hotmail.co.uk** or by telephoning **0844 58 60670**.

Further details regarding costs, timings etc will be provided in a future newsletter.

## **Leaders business meeting.**

In the region of 50% of Leaders attended the above event.

The committee members were gratified to hear that in general, group leaders were happy with the way that the organization is being run.

With regard to advertising the existence of all the groups, it was agreed that an article would be placed in the local press prior to the Enrolment Day.

## **Enrolment day**

Please note that enrolment day this year will take place on **Wednesday 2<sup>nd</sup> September** at St Mary’s Church Hall.

## **Bowling**

The bowling group who play on Thursday afternoons at the Town Hall in the winter months and the Marriott House Green, Sandbach Park during the summer months, would welcome new members.

If you would like to join this group, please ring Frances Clarke, the Group Leader on 01270 763518 who would be pleased to hear from you.

## **Outing to RAF Cosford**

Kay Bayliss was our reporter on the coach trip to RAF Cosford and this is what she had to say:

"The coach departed on time at 8.30 on Tuesday 19th May to Cosford RAF and we had a good run down and arrived just before 10.00. Priorities, a hot cuppa and snacks in their very comfortable restaurant. There are 4 hangars exhibiting aeroplanes from the outset of their times and the way they're displayed is wonderful. My favourites were the WW2 Spitfire and the Dakota, the latter being suspended from the roof. Later, after lunch, I got talking to a very elderly gentleman called Denis Thompson, who'd been a rear gunner in a Lancaster bomber (sadly there weren't any Lancs or Wimpys on display) up at Henswell, 170 Squadron. He shared a story about a chap called Fred Rawlings, a pilot shot down, but came back later to fly Wellingtons, and Denis was a rear gunner with him. We owe so much to these brave men and it was a privilege to listen to him. A great day out for a very reasonable outlay and I really recommend anyone who hasn't been to go, should the opportunity arise. Felt compelled to watch The Battle of Britain (the film) when we got back home!!!"