



North West Region of U3As

Registered Charity No. 115 9091

Message from the Chairman—Gill Russell

In the July issue I mentioned getting outside the safety zone and participating in activities. Well, I tried to take my own advice! As a result I've had a very lively few months.

First I went to the National Conference and AGM where I met some old acquaintances and gained some new ones. The Conference offered some discussion groups and activities and it was a pleasure to share these with people from all over the country. We had a superb speaker at the AGM and some very elegant entertainment at the Gala Dinner which all helped to enhance to experience.

I was no sooner home than I was heading out again - this time to Newton Rigg for the Regional Summer School. People came from all over the North West and beyond to enjoy the different subjects. Some went out on field trips, others learned about Japanese Culture or Ancient Egypt. There was an opportunity for a theatre trip, a gala dinner, to hear some visiting speakers and to exchange news with other members.

In addition to all this I have attended some of the Network meetings around the Region and discovered there's a lot going on from an Energy Day in Rheged, a Story –telling day in Manchester and a day around 'Living Well in Later Life' in Lancaster, to name but a few. Thank you to everyone who has helped to organise them so successfully.

Members of the Regional Committee have recently facilitated at a training day in Liverpool focusing on Good Governance. It was well attended and has encouraged us to plan more events at this venue. In January we are having a training day around Communication and other topics. Registration forms can be found in the Events section of the website at u3asites.org.uk/north-west. There is only a short time available to register for this so please get your names in quickly – and don't forget to press 'submit' when you've filled in the details.

We are also busy planning next year's Summer School and this time we have some new subjects as well as some popular returnees, so keep an eye on the website and future newsletters. The registration details should be ready very soon. Work is underway for the Regional AGM as well. More about that next year.

Some dates for your diary:

January 14th 2016 – full day workshop focusing on communication

June 8th 2016 – NW Regional AGM

August 30th – September 2nd 2016 – Regional Summer School

Gill

Message from your Trustee—Jenny Carley



2015 is nearly over we continue to organise training workshops for you which have been well received. There will be more next year so keep looking on the website. The membership system has been of special interest to many U3As. I will continue to organise these when I am able so that as many U3As can have the opportunity to experience this development

TRUSTEE TOPICS— Constitution

I cannot cover here all the issues associated with governance, I am therefore concentrating on some issues that were highlighted at the Governance workshop last week.

1. ALL members of a committee are Trustees including the co-opted members or those appointed using the casual vacancy option in the model constitution.
2. Every year the U3A committee should review their constitution to assess if it is current i.e. you are using the same copy as that registered with the Charity Commission. It is fit for purpose? The aims and objectives of your constitution should follow the Vision and Mission statement of The Third Age Trust.
 1. The constitution should be understood by all Trustees, so should their responsibilities as a Trustee, which can be found in the CC3 document available on the Charity Commission website.
 2. Trustees should sign the Declaration of eligibility and responsibility available on the Charity Commission website. This document is archived by the secretary and must be destroyed when the committee member leaves the committee
 3. Changes to Trustees, and amendments to constitutions must be updated on the Charity Commission site.
 4. Changes/amendments to constitutions should be approved by National Office prior to adoption at an AGM or EGM

TRUSTEE TOPICS— Trustee Induction

Necessary for all newly elected members of a committee or those that missed out on an induction session following their election. Induction is the presentation of the documentation supplied by The Third Age Trust and of best practice developed by each individual U3A. The organizational structure and support of the Third Age Trust the Region and the Network should be explained together with the necessary documentation. This is not a 5 minute session in the car on the way home, nor is this news letter a platform for advice. If you would like further information about Trustee Induction please contact me.

TRUSTEE TOPICS— Charity Registration

.Last Year the North West Region membership grew by 8.4% which means that there could be some U3As that are now required to register as a charity.

A reminder-when your income reaches £5000 then you are legally required to register your U3A as a Charity. Income is all monies including subscriptions, group money, grants and speaker meeting money etc.

I would also like to remind you that any money associated with social activities should not appear in the year end accounts submitted to the Charity Commission. Both the main account and social account must be made available at your AGM for scrutiny by the members. Further information on this can be found in the 'Information for Treasurers' document available on the National website

Barbara Lewis' publicity campaign has created a flood of interesting emails and offers of visits which you may wish to explore further. I am slowly adding them to the NW region website. Here are some examples



The **People's History Museum**, Spinningfields, Manchester M3 3ER Tel 07912 000 493 A learning opportunities for U3A groups around Manchester. A suggestion is to offer mock trials and courtroom workshops for U3A groups. More information visit <http://www.nccl.org.uk/for-young-people/?location=manchester> or contact Eleanor.Bond@nccl.org.uk.

The British Lawnmower Museum, Southport, is a unique place for anyone to visit for something completely different. An ideal opportunity to learn about this great British invention & its quirky history. The award winning Museum is open all year, (except Sun & bank hols). Beside just visiting which includes an audio tour, they also have guided tours suitable for everyone of all ages, on the lighter side of the lawnmower where you don't need a degree in engineering to enjoy, they can be arranged at most times to suit & can be honed specifically to the audience..For more information, or to arrange a visit, contact the curator, Brian Radam. Email : br@lawnmowerworld.com



Cotebrook Shire Horse Centre is open for visits and will host tours for visits. They offer 10% discount for pre booked visits (Wed to Mon) but also have **half price** Golden Oldie Tuesdays which may be of particular interest to your members! Cafe and gift shop offers are also available on Tuesdays. There is also a Wildlife Watch trail, developed in conjunction with Cheshire Wildlife trust, around the horse paddocks we feel that our attraction is particularly suited to your third agers. More information, leaflets, press release etc is available www.cotebrookshirehorses.co.uk

BBC REQUEST!!! - Make sure you get U3A name out there!

BAKE OFF IS BACK!

BBC baking contest The Great British Bake Off is returning in 2016 and the production team are currently looking for the next batch of great home bakers to take part. So who's the best baker you know? If you, or someone you know, can turn out a terrific tart, produce a perfect pie or serve up a sublime sponge, then please get in touch now.

For more information or an application form, go to: www.thegreatbritishbakeoff.co.uk

Please also feel free to pop it on any social media accounts you might use. I would be happy to email you a poster too if you prefer?

If you or someone you know thinks they have what it takes to bake in the tent, then please do encourage them to visit our website where they can download the application form

www.thegreatbritishbakeoff.co.uk or email baking@loveproductions.co.uk

A Shared Learning Project in the North West Region

What's in your loft?

Some months ago the Activities Chair of Heswall U3A, Karen Rees was sorting in her loft and came across her wedding dress and veil. She thought what a pity it was only seen on the one day never to see the light of day again, and then had a thought. What if more of our U3A members had wedding dresses in their lofts that they could display and show to our other members?

At Heswall U3A we have a monthly members meeting with a learning theme and the theme for October was Family History. After further discussion a plea was put in the Newsletter for Wedding Dresses and for tailor's dummies to display them on. 17 dresses emerged from lofts and with the help of local schools and members we searched out the necessary dummies for a display worthy of a gallery. Members also produced photographic family trees, some including wedding photos, plus our Family History leader had a display which included the projection of the 1911 census on-line to a screen so that we could start tracing our ancestors.

Another member, Susan Brown just happens to be a volunteer at The Williamson Art Gallery in Birkenhead and asked them if they would be interested in a wedding dress exhibition in cooperation with Heswall U3A. Indeed they would!



Thus started the next phase of the adventure, as lofts yielded not only dresses and veils, but invitations, orders of service, original bills, telegrams, boxes for wedding cake and the original dress patterns for some of the dresses. This then became a joint project with the gallery.

'To have and to hold' is the result – an exhibition at The Williamson Art Gallery in Birkenhead. Heswall U3A has also helped to sponsor it.

...to have and to hold...
15th October - 20th of December 2015
Wednesday to Sunday 10am-5pm

We have displayed a selection of promotional material for the Deeside & Wirral U3A Network and the wider U3A movement so that visitors to the exhibition can discover what else goes on at the U3A.



An exhibition of vintage wedding dresses of the 20th century and wedding ephemera from
Heswall U3A

Williamson Art Gallery & Museum

If you go rummaging in your loft be careful what you might find!

It may entail a lot more than you were expecting!

Cousins Reunited through the Family History Meeting in October

What an amazing coincidence!

My parents' wedding photo was recognised by another U3A member Vivienne McDonough on the U3A family history/wedding dress display morning. She had seen the same couple in a wedding photo at her sister's home in which her sister was the three year old bridesmaid.



We have since met up and compared notes on our families and have managed to put names to people in the photograph and have discovered we actually share a Great Grandmother. This discovery has solved a mystery for both of us as it turns out that Great Grandmother was widowed and then re-married. We are descended from the first and second marriages and this makes us second cousins.

We have been able to share information about our families and ancestors, especially the mystery of "Auntie Maggie" from Cornwall who appeared on photos and marriage certificates.

This amazing meeting up has enabled us to discover more about our shared ancestors and our family links. There is still much more research to do. What was Great Grandmother's maiden name? Walker or Leatherbarrow? Yet another mystery to be solved!

Carole

All the photos from the display at Heswall Hall and the

Williamson are now on the website - www.heswallu3a.co.uk



ANNIVERSARIES NEXT YEAR

Time for a celebration—Is your U3A here?

FIVE YEARS

Poynton
Winsford
Wilmslow
Middlewich
Wyre
Workington & District
Ellesmere Port & District
Skelmersdale
Kirkby & District

TEN YEARS

Mawdesley Villages
Furness
Maghull & Lydiate

FIFTEEN YEARS

High Lane
Cheadle Hulme

TWENTY YEARS

Frodsham
Halewood
Crosby
Macclesfield Rural
Formby

TWENTY FIVE YEARS

Birkdate & Ainsdale
Carlisle & District
Bolton

THIRTY YEARS

Stockport
Salford



FORTHCOMING WORKSHOPS

This is advance notice of workshops planned. Details will be on the NW Region website as soon as they are confirmed. Please register using the online booking form

ALL THESE WORKSHOPS WILL BE FREE TO ATTENDEES

FUNDED BY THE THIRD AGE TRUST

WORKSHOP—COMMUNICATION

January 14th Quaker meeting house Liverpool

WORKSHOP—TRUSTEE—FINANCE

January Gateway Warrington

WORKSHOP—GOVERNANCE rpt

March—Warrington

WORKSHOP—MUSIC

May 13th Hoylake Community Centre

CONTACT ABOUT ITEMS IN THIS NEWS LETTER Email nwu3anews@gmail.com