



May 2016

Manchester Ship Canal Trip

We regret to inform those members, who were expecting to sail down the Manchester Ship Canal on 5th June, that the lifting bridge by the M60 that collapsed over the canal on 16th May will prevent Mersey Ferries from running the service. Full refunds will be given at the U3A desk in Sandbach Library on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of each month starting in June (when we expect to have the money back from Mersey Ferries). The trip will be rescheduled for early in 2017.

Committee Changes

(1) - Groups Convenor

We are pleased to announce that one of our fellow members, Geoff Pyke, has agreed to stand for election on the committee at the next AGM and has also agreed to take on the job of Groups Convenor. This is a role we have not had in Sandbach before but does exist in other U3A's.

Although Geoff is fairly new to the area he already runs a group of his own and has also been actively involved with groups whilst in the Wendover U3A in Buckinghamshire.

The Group Convenor role is as follows;

- liaise with group leaders
- Introduce new group leaders at members' mornings
- Promote the U3A ethos of shared responsibility
- Promote groups – old and new

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

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.

- Man the monthly members morning information stand
- Guide new group leaders, especially in their first year
- Provide support for existing group leaders
- Support and regenerate struggling groups
- Generate ideas for new groups

I am delighted to say that Geoff is willing to commence supporting the committee, groups and group leaders in the new role with immediate effect.

He hopes to meet up with all group leaders in due course but that may take a little while due to the number of groups we have.

I am sure you will all find Geoff very approachable and supportive.

(2) – Programme Organisers

Wendy Siepen is having to standing down as a programme organiser due to other commitments but will remain serving as a committee member.

Val Williams, who is already a committee member, will be replacing Wendy as one of our two programmes organisers, in partnership with Judi Hewitt.

Val will be mainly concerned with booking the many venues used by Sandbach U3A against an extensive schedule and all leaders are requested to keep Judi and Val notified of all venue requirements, booking times and start dates etc. for next season as soon as possible so they can meet all requirements and avoid last minute panics.

Our programme organisers, Judi and Val, will be working closely with Geoff Pyke the new Groups Convenor in helping to organize and support the increasing number of groups and leaders in our organization.

Membership Renewals

If you put your membership renewal form with a cheque in the box in Sandbach Library, please remember to include with it a stamped addressed envelope.

This will ease the load on the membership secretary and ensure that your new membership card(s) can be despatched to you without delay.

Peaceful Painting Group

Members are asked to note that vacancies exist on the above group. If you would like to join, the group leader would be pleased to hear from you. Please contact her via the email address lesley.farrar@btconnect.com

Members Meeting – 9 May 2016

The last members meeting was extremely well attended and members of the following groups showcased the skills and abilities that they had acquired.

Ukelele
Guitar
Creative writing
Poetry

The committee would like to thank all those members who participated and made the meeting such a success

The next Members Meeting will take place on Monday 5th September.

Position of Treasurer

It will be necessary to elect a new Treasurer at the AGM in October 2017

Whilst this sounds a very long time in the future, the months will pass extremely quickly and it would be helpful for the new treasurer to shadow Louise Adams, the current treasurer, until the handover. If any member would like to succeed Louise in this role, please contact a member of the committee as soon as possible.

Ideally the new treasurer would have experience of accountancy or a treasurer role but it is not essential. The role can also be shared by more than one person.

Social Committee Events & Outings

Tickets will be going on sale at the U3A desk in Sandbach Library on the 2nd and 4th Wednesdays of each month for the following events:

- Trafford Centre Shopping
- Christmas Party
- Billy Elliot in Birmingham
- Guided Walk in Liverpool

The social committee is seeking expressions of interest for a New Year's Eve dinner in the Wilbraham Arms, Alsager costing about £35. This includes a hot buffet and a Lionel Ritchie tribute act. If you are interested, please call Alice on 01270 765856 before the end of June.

Group News

We have several new groups eager to start that just need your support.

If you are interested or require further information on any of the following please let me know as soon as possible either by email to new.groups@sandbachu3a.org.uk or by dropping a note to me (Geoff Pyke) in the U3A box in Sandbach Library;

- Circle Dancing : see below.
- Latin
- Geology
- Ram and Chips : Exploring computer technology

Circle Dancing

Modern Circle Dancing draws on the rich and diverse traditional dances of many countries including the Balkans, Greece, Israel, France and South America.

Some of the dances can be gentle and reflective or energetic and lively according to the interests of the teacher and the group.

As the name suggests we dance in a circle, usually holding hands. With each dance the basic steps are taught, then we walk them through before the music starts so that everyone is familiar with them.

Most people find they can enjoy the dancing straight away, no experience necessary. It doesn't matter to anyone if you get the steps wrong, the most important thing is that you enjoy yourself, everyone is equal in the circle.

.....

Creative Writing

Jinty would love to see more members at the successful creative writing group which meets on the second Monday in the month at her house. If you would like more information contact Jinty via creative.writing@sandbachu3a.org.uk

Painting – Watercolours (Fortnightly)

This active group is looking for somebody to teach and encourage them as their current leader is standing down after 13 successful years.

If you think you might be interested in this role please contact me, Geoff Pyke via new.groups@sandbachu3a.org.uk

.....

Look forward to hearing from you: Geoff Pyke
new.groups@sandbachu3a.org.uk

Severn Valley Railway Trip 5th May 2016

On a fabulous Thursday morning with blue skies and little wind, a full coach of excited U3A members left Sandbach bound for Bridgnorth in Shropshire. Our main reason for going was a trip on the Severn Valley railway to Kidderminster later that afternoon.

Bridgnorth we discovered is a beautiful market town split into two levels (high town and low town) by the River Severn. The Bridgnorth Cliff Railway will take you down to the bridge across the Severn that links the two halves.



Arriving in Bridgnorth at around 12 noon, everybody was soon tucking into lunch at one of the many eating houses in the town before exploring the wonderful variety of architecture to be seen.



All too soon it was time to re-join our coach and travel the short distance to the railway station where a special coach had been reserved. All we needed was a locomotive.



Engine number 1501, a class 1500 0-6-0PT locomotive built in Swindon in 1949, was quickly coupled up and we were off.

The journey from Bridgnorth to Kidderminster takes just over an hour and passes through wonderful scenic countryside and beautifully restored stations.



On reaching Kidderminster we discovered that the M6 was totally blocked and when the coach driver offered us a scenic route home we all accepted it despite a longer journey.



The views of the Shropshire countryside in the evening sunshine were worth the extra mileage and we even had a hot air balloon give us a fly-past.

Thanks as always to Social team for a fabulous day out.

[All photos by Geoff Pyke]