



NOVEMBER 2016

Annual General Meeting

The 13th Annual General meeting took place on Monday 24 October at Sandbach Town Hall

Alan Casey (Chairman) reported that there are now approximately 1200 members and membership numbers are still increasing.

He noted that there are now around 90 groups and in the last year, the subject range has increased also.

He informed members that steps were being taken to invest in an on-line management system which, when operational, would enable members to go online from home and carry out tasks such as renew membership, pay for trips, join groups, check on waiting lists.

It was pointed out that members without computers would still be able to do these things by letter, phone message, or visiting the U3A desk at Sandbach Library.

Louise Adams (Treasurer) reported that the finances remain very healthy.

Joan Chadwick stood down from the committee, having completed 3 years as Secretary. Alan Casey thanked Joan for all her hard work and commitment. Wendy Siepen also stood down and was thanked for her efforts.

The following people were elected to the Committee

Jinty Pyke - Secretary
Geoff Pyke - Groups Co-ordinator
Alex Black - Venues Co-ordinator
Peter Doughty - Deputy Treasurer

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.

Golf Charity Day

Sandbach U3A golf group organised a charity day in aid St Luke's Hospice at Malkins Bank Golf Club on 21st September and raised over £2,450 from the event.

The organisers thanked Poole Alcock LLP for their sponsorship, Sandbach Town Council for their promotional grant and Barclays Bank for fund matching the Tombola on the day and the individuals and local businesses for the donation of Tombola prizes.

St Luke's Hospice thanked Malkins Bank GC for hosting the event.

Pictured holding the cheque are Jeff Diggle, leader of the U3A golf group, Alex Heller, golf professional at Malkins Bank and Judith Cadwallader, chairman of the Sandbach Support Group for St Luke's Hospice together with members from the U3A, St Luke's and MBGC.



Theatre Trip to Sweet Charity

Sunday 8th January 2017 at Royal Exchange Theatre, Manchester

A coach will leave the Military Arms in Sandbach at 9.30am allowing time for shopping and lunch before the 2.30pm matinee performance.

We will return to Sandbach at the end of the performance. The cost is £34 including theatre ticket, coach fare and driver's tip.

Tickets will be on sale:

- at the U3A library desk on Wednesday 24th October - 9.30am - 11.30am
- at the Members' meeting on Monday 7th November
- at the U3A Library desk 9th November - 9.30am - 11.30am

Creative Writing

At a recent meeting the group was highly entertained by a piece written by Sheila Leslie and it is reproduced here for you to enjoy.

The group had randomly chosen 2 characters, 2 places and 2 objects from a list provided and everyone then had to write a piece including all these.

The list was: doctor, shoplifter, wooden spoon, carving knife, mountain top and job centre! As you can see that looked to be quite a challenge but everyone rose to it wonderfully and Sheila's story encapsulated it all seamlessly whilst providing an entertaining and believable narrative.

Jinty Pyke, Leader, Creative Writing

Putting it right

"I'm a Doctor for goodness sake, what's the matter with me?" Ruth stared transfixed at the wooden spoon now looking alien and out of place as it lay there on the kitchen table, inert and useless. No not useless, she struggled to put her thoughts into words. A wooden spoon wasn't useless; on the contrary, it was almost a necessity in the kitchen, but why oh why had she been so stupid? What had induced her to pick it up and slip it into her bag? She closed her eyes, she felt physically sick as wave after wave of nausea swept over her like a giant tsunami. She tried to excuse herself; after all it wasn't The Crown Jewels.

"I'm a doctor," she repeated. She could feel her face burning with shame, her anxiety level rocketing way above any scale imaginable. "I'm a shoplifter not a doctor, I'm a thief."

The door bell rang. Ruth snatched up the spoon and quickly thrust it into the cutlery box. She stood up, her legs suddenly felt like jelly as, heart pounding, she walked down the hall to open the front door.

Sergeant O'Riley stood there, note pad in hand, pencil poised and clearly ready for action. Ruth stared at him mesmerised, that was quick, she panicked, and I've only just walked in.

"I saw you earlier in your friends kitchen shop" he continued "what's it called now?" He rubbed his chin thoughtfully "oh yes The Wooden spoon. The wife loves it. She says that it's just the boost the village needed, somewhere with a bit of class. Sell every piece of modern kitchen equipment imaginable, from coffee makers and bread makers right down to the humble wooden spoon" Ruth winced, he knows, she felt her blood pressure rise, her mouth felt dry and she could feel the bile rising in her throat. Oh the shame, what would the neighbours think and the church parishioners let alone her patients and colleagues at the surgery. Ruth Morgan, shoplifter, ex pillar of society. O'Riley's face registered concern "Are you alright Ruth, you look terrible, anyone would think that I'd come to arrest you. I've called round to remind you that it's your turn to do the church flowers this weekend, and I need to make a note of the days you might be able to supervise the first aid classes at Cressy Road Juniors. I don't know how you do it Ruth. It's as if you throw everything in a big pot, stir it round with a big wooden spoon, and somehow the jobs still get done. You're like Wonder Woman. I saw your little sister earlier" he continued "I think she's in love, spooning away with that tall spotty kid from number eleven." Ruth's eyes glazed over, why did he keep referring to spoons?

"Well I'd better be on my way before the Chief accuses me of wasting time, and I find myself queuing up at the Job Centre".

Ruth turned and went back into the kitchen. She opened the cutlery drawer and carefully avoiding the spoon, took out the carving knife and a loaf from the cupboard, and proceeded to hack at it with unnecessary vigour. It was no use, she had to do something to redeem her crime. The telephone's shrill ring interrupted her thoughts. Startled, her heart rate went into overdrive; she picked up the receiver and with closed eyes opened her mouth to speak. "Hello" she squeaked

"Hi there my dear friend, I'm after a favour." It was Jess from the kitchen shop. "Are you alright, you sound a bit odd."

"Yes I'm fine" Ruth lied "What kind of favour?"

"Things have absolutely gone mad here, and there's the possibility of me having to nip to the warehouse. Many of the cheaper accessories have simply flown out of the shop, would you believe that I've just sold my last wooden spoon?"

"Really" croaked Ruth "I'm on my way."

Pausing only for a minute to retrieve the wooden spoon out of the drawer, she slipped on her coat and walked the few hundred yards to the shop. It was indeed buzzing; the opening bargain offers had proved a huge success.

“Man the till please Ruth,” Jess called out to her friend as she wrestled to pack a soup maker back into its original box.

Placing her bag on the floor, Ruth took her place behind the till.

“Stop dawdling Grace,” a very frustrated mother approached her, juggling a miscellany of bits and pieces which threatened to overflow the basket she was carrying. “Do you know,” she began, apparently needing to unburden herself in more ways than one, “of all the things I’ve managed to buy, you’d think that a shop with a name like “The Wooden Spoon,” would actually have one available to purchase. We’re off home to make pancakes, and although I can manage, I foolishly promised Grace that she could beat the batter”.

Ruth felt a flood of relief; the Angels must be smiling down on her she thought, as she bent down and unnoticed, deftly slipped the spoon out of her bag, and placed it on the counter.

“You’re in luck; a customer suddenly decided that it was superfluous to her needs and it hasn’t been returned to the shelf, will that do?” Grace’s face was wreathed in smiles as she shyly took the wooden spoon and placed it in her mother’s basket.

Ruth recognised the little girl as being a pupil at Cressy Street Juniors and couldn’t resist adding, “That might just come in handy as a splint sometime at the first aid classes”.

Just then she saw Jess approaching. She was smiling broadly, seeing the sudden change in her friend’s demeanour. “What’s happened to you, you look as though you could climb a mountain top whereas you seemed to be carrying the weight of the world when you came in”?

Ruth shrugged, no, just the weight of a wooden spoon, she thought sighing with relief.

Sheila Leslie

November Group News

Walking Football

Are you interested in getting a little more exercise?

We are looking at the possibility of starting a walking football group which will be open to men and women.

The games are short and more about passing the ball than tackles and stamina..

If you think you might be interested or need further information please contact:

groups.co-ordinator@sandbachu3a.org.uk

Fitness for Men

There have been some requests for a fitness group just for men.

We would like to remind everyone that we already have a very active keep fit group which runs every Friday between September and May at 13:30 to 14:30 in St.Mary's Church Hall. It accepts men and women. If you are interested contact the group leader at keep.fit@sandbachu3a.org.uk.

Creative Writing

Jinty still has space on 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

This active group is still seeking 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:

groups.co-ordinator@sandbachu3a.org.uk

Peaceful Painting

A very friendly group who would like more members to join them every other Tuesday afternoon in the Masonic Hall. Contact the group leader via

peaceful.painting@sandbachu3a.org.uk

Yoga

We currently have three Yoga groups and a waiting list for all three.

If you like Yoga and would like to run a new group, we would love to hear from you.

We already have a suitable instructor but need a U3A member to be the group leader.

Please contact the groups' co-ordinator via:

groups.co-ordinator@sandbachu3a.org.uk

Geoff Pyke – Groups' Co-ordinator

The Following Groups Currently have Vacancies:

Anyone interested should contact the appropriate leader (See our website, sandbachu3a.org.uk for further details)

Astronomy

(Mondays 2:00pm - 3:30pm)

Book Club - Fiction 2 - Monthly

(3rd Tuesday 2:00pm - 3:30pm)

Book Club - Non Fiction - Monthly

(3rd Monday 2:00pm - 3:30pm)

Book Club - Science Fiction - Monthly

(3rd Friday 10:00am - 12:00n)

Bowls - Group 2

(Tuesdays 10:00am - 12:00n)

Brass Band (Must have own instrument and be able to read music)

(Wednesdays 2:00pm - 4:00pm)

Country Dancing

(Thursdays 1:30pm - 3:30pm)

Creative Writing - Monthly

(2nd Monday 10:00am - 12:00n)

Cycling - Rusty Riders - Duracell - Monthly

(2nd Friday 10:00am)

Environmental Action - Monthly

(4th Monday 9:30am - 11.30am)

Geology - Monthly 2

(3rd Thursday 10:00am - Noon)

Guitar Tuition Beginners (Own Guitar) - Mthly

(3rd Friday 1:30pm - 3:30pm)

Guitar Tuition Impr'vrs (Own Guitar) - Mthly

(1st Friday 1:30pm - 3:30pm)

History - 17th Century Studies - Monthly

(1st Wednesday 10:00am - 12:00n)

History - Interactive Forum

(1st & 3rd Monday 2:00pm - 4:00pm)

Keep Fit

(Fridays 1:30pm - 2:30pm)

Latin

(1st & 3rd Tuesday 2:00pm - 4:00pm)

Painting - Peaceful Painting Allsorts

(Alt Tuesday 1:30pm - 3:30pm)

Painting - Watercolours (Fortnightly)

(Alt Wednesday 1:00pm - 4:00pm)

Papercraft 1

(Tuesdays 11:00am - 12:30pm)

Patchwork - Beginners

(2nd & 4th Thursday 2:00pm - 4:00pm)

Photography - Enjoying - Monthly

(2nd Friday 2:00pm - 4:00pm)

Ram & Chips - Monthly

(4th Monday 10:00am - 12:00n)

Reading Aloud - Monthly

(3rd Tuesday 10:00am - 11:30am)

Tap Dancing

(Tuesdays 11:00am - 12:00n)

Ukulele

(1st & 3rd Thursday 6:15pm - 8.45pm)

Walking - Short Walk & Dine 2 Monthly

(2nd Tuesday 10:00am)

Walking - Short Walk & Dine 3 Monthly

(4th Tuesday 10:00am)

Walking - Short Walk & Dine 5 Monthly

(2nd Wednesday 10:00am)

Walking with Dogs – Monthly (No further dogs for now please, just anyone fancying a walk)

(2nd Monday 10:00am)

Wild Flower Identification - Weekly

(Tuesdays 2:00pm - 4:00pm)