



# Sandbach and District U3A Newsletter



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## **December 2016**

### **New Outings**

#### **Steam Train Trip to Bury Market on Wednesday 14th June 2017 costing £25**

This trip gives you a triple dose of nostalgia; as well as the delights of riding in an old carriage pulled by a steam locomotive, you can shop in 1950s style at the highly acclaimed Bury market. As if that wasn't enough, you can practise curling your little finger for afternoon tea on the train.

A coach takes you at 9am from the Military Arms in Sandbach to Bury, where you can tour the massive market and fill your bags with the local black puddings as well lots of other culinary delights. The coach then takes you to Bury station for your return trip to Rawtenstall on a steam train of the East Lancs Railway. While you are steaming along, the staff will serve afternoon tea at your table in the Sandbach U3A carriage.

Tickets will be available from the U3A desk in Sandbach library on Wednesday 8th February between 9:30am and 11:30am. Thereafter tickets will be available on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from the U3A desk.

#### **Funny Girl theatre trip on Thursday 20th July 2017 costing £41**

Our trip to Funny Girl catches the touring production in Llandudno.

Tickets will be available from the U3A desk in Sandbach library on Wednesday 11th January between 9:30am and 11:30am. Thereafter tickets will be available on the 2nd and 4th Wednesday of the month from the U3A desk.

### **City Outings**

The theatre trips to Manchester on 8<sup>th</sup> January 2017 and to Birmingham on 16<sup>th</sup> March have seats available on the coach because we were unable to obtain enough theatre tickets to fill the coach. The coach tickets are priced at £7 to Manchester and £10 to Birmingham. If you fancy a day out in the city, call Alice on 01270 765856.

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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 [newsfeed@sandbachu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsfeed@sandbachu3a.org.uk) or text to phone 07929 599026 by the end of the third week of each month.

## **Group News**

### **Walking Football**

Are you interested in getting a little more exercise?

Short games and more about passing the ball than tackles and stamina. Open to men and women.

We are now taking names (not red cards) for a walking football group.

If you think you might be interested or need further information, please contact [groups.co-ordinator@sandbachu3a.org.uk](mailto:groups.co-ordinator@sandbachu3a.org.uk) to register your interest.

### **Groups with space available.**

Please see the Sandbach U3A website for the list of groups which still have vacancies;

<http://sandbachu3a.org.uk/wp/groups-3/groups-with-vacancies/>

Geoff Pyke – Groups' co-ordinator

## **Members' Mornings**

The next Members' Morning, last of the calendar year, is the much anticipated BRASS BAND CHRISTMAS CONCERT. The highlight of Members' Mornings, it takes place on Monday 5th December in the Town Hall. At this event, to allow far more people to attend, the chairs are set out in rows, first come, first served. As usual, the event is free (open to members only) but with Christmas themed refreshments. 10am is when most people begin to arrive, sporting festive jumpers or decorations. The band will commence about 10.30 and will provide so much Christmas cheer, you will leave foot tappingly ready for more Christmas shopping, with carols echoing in your ears.

This event is, of course, a complete contrast to last month's speaker. In homage to Remembrance Day, local author, Jean Hood, was invited to reveal the engrossing story of a young German merchant seaman, an unknown POW, buried for 70 years in a cemetery in Staffordshire. With her research leading her to the frail family of this young man, she captured our attention as she read genuine letters from the handsome teenager as he found himself, not at sea in an innocent convoy, but caught up in the battle to sink the Bismark. In the following years, long past the ending of the war, P P Titz was held in various POW camps. For him and his family there was no happy ending.

Since delivery of her research, Jean has been interviewed by various local newspapers and radio stations. On 29th November, a small entourage, including a priest in respect of his Catholic family, will take part in a re-commemoration ceremony to remember this young man. She has also taken delivery of her professionally published short book, entitled "Why am I still here?" reflecting the longing of P P Titz to go home, so long after the war, seemingly with no escape from Marchington, in Staffordshire.

U3A diaries for 2017 will be on sale for £2 each at this event.

## **Quiz**

Another well-attended quiz was held on 16<sup>th</sup> November but the winners will not be named in the hope that they will be deterred from winning again. Keith Poynton devised the questions to challenge the assembled brains and handled the microphone. Keith's wife Jan and Liz Alcock looked after the admin while Geoff Miller kept the scores on the wall. As a result, it was another enjoyable evening even for those who didn't appear high in the rankings.

Anyone who fancies going into training to challenge for first place next time should make a note in their diary for Wednesday 5<sup>th</sup> April 2017. This is when the next quiz will be held in St Mary's Church Hall.

## **Table Tennis Match**

The wedding took place at Wheelock Heath Baptist Church between two of the members of the Friday morning table tennis group on 5<sup>th</sup> November 2016. Val Jenkins and Mel Edwards first met at the group Christmas lunch in 2011. Following that, Mel offered Val some coaching lessons at the end of January 2012 and by early March they were going out together. Mel says he was won over by her smile but her table tennis did not improve at the same rate as their relationship! Mel proposed in August 2016 and they decided to get married on 5<sup>th</sup> November.

Many congratulations to them both.

