

# FLINTSHIRE U3A NEWSLETTER

Volume 6 Issue 5

[www.flintshire-u3a.co.uk](http://www.flintshire-u3a.co.uk)

December 2011

## 10 YEARS FLINTSHIRE U3A BIRTHDAY PARTY



**Chair and Vice Chair: Hilary & Gill**




**Hilary with past Chairs, Anne & Ian**



### FLINTSHIRE U3A MEMBERS PARTY AT THE BEAUFORT HOTEL



## FLINTSHIRE U3A 10th BIRTHDAY PARTY



On Wednesday 23 November 118 members gathered at the Beaufort Park Hotel to celebrate **Flintshire U3A's 10<sup>th</sup> birthday**. It was a treat to see everyone "dressed up" and ready to enjoy the day. Most gathered downstairs, meeting and chatting to friends before proceeding to the upstairs lounge for coffee which was very welcome as 4 hours of entertainment, good food and conversation were to follow.

Photographs of our 4 Chairmen, past and present, and personal memories of their time in office were displayed alongside a scrapbook covering 10 years of Flintshire U3A.

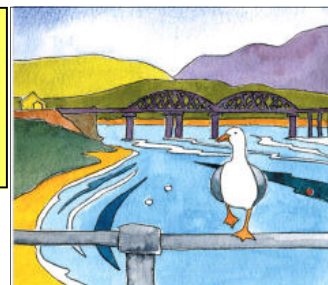
This encouraged long standing members to take a trip down memory lane and newer members to discover FU3A's history.

We moved into the Westminster Suite for the entertainment and Gill, our Vice Chairman, began proceedings by thanking past and present Chairmen. We then had an amazing sound and vision presentation of FU3A's growth over the past 10 years which must have taken hours for Julia to research and Sandra to produce. We were then thoroughly entertained and educated in the art of the "New Age of Magic" by Peter Turner, professional magician, and although he told us about his "misdirection" techniques, we were unable to outwit him in any way!

Seating for lunch allowed old friends to meet and new acquaintances to be made. Hilary, our Chairman, said a few words before lunch and proposed the toast to FU3A for an active and enjoyable future. An excellent lunch and table top quiz soon had us chatting and discussing the answers. After lunch we were treated to a raffle to round off the day with great prizes. Gill closed our celebrations and members left happy to have been part of Flintshire U3A's very successful 10<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations and looking forward to the next 10 years.

[Chris Wilson](#)

## NORTH WALES ASSOCIATION OF U3As ANNUAL STUDY DAY



### Barmouth 12 Oct 2011

Informative, entertaining and sociable! Coaches and cars gathered U3A-ers from all over North Wales to The Dragon Theatre in Barmouth for this year's Study Day, "Landscape and People". First, we watched a video made by a local member George Mandow, showing and describing the river from it's source in the boggy uplands to it's mighty estuary at Barmouth and highlighting the social and industrial history of the area. Then a presentation by Frances Lynch, a retired lecturer in archaeology, titled "Walking up the Mawddach in Pre-history" A delicious lunch was accompanied by a rolling on-screen montage of fine historic photos from earlier times at the Mawddach and was much enjoyed. There was enough time for a quick exploration of the town - (the rain had abated) - before the afternoon sessions.

The first session looked at the early history and the people who helped shape the town. The speaker, John Sam Jones, a novelist and long time resident gave an affectionate and amusing series of anecdotes and facts loosely connected with his own ancestors. It was fascinating to learn how early Barmouth had become a tourist destination and sea-bathing centre long before the railway came.

The final session by Dr Robert Howarth looked at Barmouth's maritime history up to the present, a survey of the boatbuilding, sea-going and fishing history of the estuary. The road along the north side of the estuary was developed quite late so the ferries, both across and along the estuary from Llanelltyd, were vital to the life of the area for centuries before that wonderful railway bridge was built. Will Barmouth now have to build a marina to continue her significant maritime history?

We all enjoyed the day, and are most grateful to the speakers, the organisers and all Barmouth for their warm and well thought out hospitality.

For 2012 Flintshire U3A must now follow that!

[Rod & Joan Thomas](#)

## OPEN MEETINGS 2012

**ALL MEMBERS WELCOME** Remember the **Book/CD/DVD Exchange!**

All meetings are at 10am for 10.30am at New Brighton Community Centre.

A charge of 50p is levied which includes refreshments and a contribution to the hire of the hall.

**1 Feb 2012**

**"Flintshire Pubs and Breweries"**  
by David Rowe

**7 March 2012**

**"Thorntons Chocolates"**  
by Andrew and Paul Garside  
and FU3A AGM.

**April 2012**

**"Surgery at the Battle of Waterloo"**  
by Michael Crumplin

**13 June 2012**

**"The Ladies of Llangollen"**  
by Lowri Williams

## GROUPS NEWS

Contact details are listed on page 4

### NEW GROUPS ARE SEEKING MEMBERS

**"SOCIAL" BRIDGE GROUP** Social Bridge is Bridge without a Director, not "Duplicate" Bridge or "Chicago". You don't need to arrive with a partner, every hand is shuffled and dealt and there is no concept of an overall winner. You simply play each hand to the best of your ability with the partner, the opponents and the cards that chance has given you. It's suitable for both beginners and experts but it's meant to be fun! Venue and meeting times are yet to be decided and will depend on the members.

### CRIBBAGE MAHJONG GENERAL CRAFTS

**BASIC WELSH** for absolute beginners.

### ART GROUP 3, VEGAN COOKERY

**WRITING GROUP "ABC"** A new kind of writing group.

### OTHER GROUPS SEEKING NEW MEMBERS

**PLAY READING** Male voices especially welcome!

We meet monthly in Mold to read a play together.

Drama without the hassle of learning lines!

**DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP** is still meeting but we are currently of no fixed abode. We meet at 2.00pm on the 2nd and 4th Mondays of each month but the venues may be different for each meeting.

**BALLROOM DANCING** welcomes more couples and singles.

**TEN PIN BOWLING, COMPUTER DABLERS,**

**WELSH CONVERSATION, THEATRE GROUP, SWIMMING.**

**WALKING GROUP 4** Walks are up to 5 miles and usually in the Mold or Ruthin area, We walk on a Thursday morning (3rd Thursday of the month) starting at 10am and have an average attendance of about 6 at the moment. New members would be most welcome and also help to organise further walks. Contact [Mike Stelfox: 01244 818739](tel:01244 818739)

### NEW CO-ORDINATORS NEEDED!

**SOCIAL HISTORY** needs another co-ordinator.

Maybe people could volunteer to form a small team to run it?

If you would be willing to help please contact:

[Tom 01352 741719](tel:01352 741719) or [Hilary 01352 780324](tel:01352 780324)

## AGM 2012

Flintshire U3A will be holding its [AGM](#) on March 7th 2012 at New Brighton Community Centre. There will be a talk about "Thorntons Chocolates" by [Andrew and Paul Garside](#) and a raffle before the AGM. Hilary's term of office comes to an end that day and so nominations are required for both Chairman and 3 committee vacancies. These nominations should be sent in writing to: [John Hughes, Secretary, 10 Argoed Avenue, New Brighton, MOLD, CH7 6QL](#) by 31st January. Any items for discussion under AOB must be submitted before the AGM. The minutes of the last AGM will be available on the website from 31st January 2012.

We regret to announce the deaths of two members of Flintshire U3A, Paula Gwatkin and Irena Mellor.

**GARDENING GROUP** The greenhouse at our Llys Eleanor Community Allotment lost almost all of the polycarbonate panels in the high winds last February. Some were never found, indeed it is rumoured they were seen flying down Shotton High Street. Whilst we sought to claim on our insurance, yards of sticky tape and polythene sheeting were applied to hold the structure together.

This was fairly successful until late spring when more winds finished it off completely.

The insurers finally settled our claim, and with the help of a team of wonderful unemployed young people from

Groundwork in Wrexham, a new greenhouse has been erected.

[Philip Johnson](#)



## ANGELA PARRY

It is with regret that I inform you of the resignation of Angela Parry from the Committee.

As many of you will know, Angela and Alun, her doctor husband, have been planning a "Third Age" adventure for some time, managing a 25 bed hospital on the edge of the Australian outback. They arrived safely in Australia on 14 November.

We have all benefited from Angela's creativity and hard work in producing a high quality newsletter and maintaining our excellent website. She even found her own replacements to do these important jobs. Angela is also responsible for our FU3A philosophy "Friendship and Fun through Lifelong Learning." Angela served on the committee for over 3 years, kept us entertained with her quiet wit and became a dear friend to many of us. We will miss her! Thankfully it is only for 2 years and email and skype will keep us in touch. She says she will be keeping an eye on us via our website. We wish Angela and Alun good luck in their "Gap year" + 1. What a great advert they are for us "Third-agers"! We hope they have a super time and come back safe and sound - when we will all welcome her back to FU3A. [Hilary \(Chairman\)](#)



## COMMITTEE 2011/12

<b>Chair</b>	Hilary Jones	01352 780324	<b>Membership Secretary</b>	Barry Ashton	01352 741836
<b>Vice Chair</b>	Gill Causer	01352 713972	<b>Editors:</b>	Viv Guntrip Carol Williams	
<b>Treasurer</b>	Elen Williams	01352 752174	<b>Publicity</b>	Sandra Hulland	01244 818384
<b>Secretary</b>	John Hughes	01352 754065	<b>Other Committee Members</b>	Linda Kinsey Paul Walters David Williams	01352 742146  01352 753819

## THESE INTEREST GROUPS ARE WELCOMING NEW MEMBERS – DECEMBER 2011

GROUP	MEETING VENUE	DAY	TIME	CONTACT	TELEPHONE
ART 3		To be arranged		Hilary	01352 780324
BALLROOM DANCING	Pantymwyn	Thursdays	13.00-14.00	Linda	01352 742146
BASIC WELSH		To be arranged		Vera	01352 756056
COMPUTER DABLERS	Connah's Quay	2 <sup>nd</sup> Monday of month	10.00-12.00	Sandra	01244 818384
CRIBBAGE	Gwernaffield	3rd Wednesday of month	14.00-16.00	Roger	01352 710735
DIGITAL PHOTOGRAPHY		2 <sup>nd</sup> & 4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of month	14.00-16.00	Frank	01352 741416
GENERAL CRAFTS	To be arranged	4 <sup>th</sup> Monday of month	10.00-12.00	Maureen	01244 543291
MAHJONG		To be arranged		Peter	01244 548875
PLAY READING	Mold	2 <sup>nd</sup> Thursday of month	14.00-16.00	Lesley	01978 861482
“SOCIAL” BRIDGE	To be arranged - Contact Neville <a href="mailto:njhowell@btinternet.com">email njhowell@btinternet.com</a> 01244 535173 or 07850 921295				
SWIMMING	Buckley	Thursdays	08-00-09.00	Jane	01352 756703
TEN PIN BOWLING	Chester Greyhound	1 <sup>st</sup> Thursday of month	10.00-12.00	Barry	01352 741836
THEATRE GROUP	Meet every 3 months to arrange theatre trips			Sue	01352 754376
VEGAN COOKERY		To be arranged		Ann	01352 753671
WALKING GROUP 3	Mold	1st & 3rd Sunday of month		Jane	01352 756703
WALKING GROUP 4		3rd Thursday of month	10.00 start	Mike	01244 818739
WELSH CONVERSATION	Mold	4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of month	14.30-16.00	Diane	01244 544284
WRITING GROUP “ABC”	To be arranged -		Contact Jane <a href="mailto:janeyffoto@talktalk.net">email janeyffoto@talktalk.net</a>	01352 756703	

Email enquiries to Flintshire U3A Groups' Co-ordinator : [flintshireu3a@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:flintshireu3a@yahoo.co.uk)

### AN INVITATION TO A WINE APPRECIATION EVENING

At: Northop Country House Hotel.

On: Thursday 12 January 2012 at 7.30pm

There will be 8 Wines to appreciate together with selected cheeses. The cost is £7.00 for FU3A members and for any non-member that you may bring as a welcome guest.

**Reserve places NOW.**

Email : [archerkp@btinternet.com](mailto:archerkp@btinternet.com)

Payment required by Sunday 8 January 2012.

Cheques payable to **K C ARCHER 62, High Park, Gwernaffield, Mold, CH7 5EE.**

Please send your email address.

On receipt, an Invitation and free Raffle ticket will be sent to your email for you to print off and bring with you on the evening.



### THIRD AGE TRUST NATIONAL AGM 2011

Hilary and Gill attended the **2011 National Conference and AGM** in Nottingham on 18 September 2011 as day delegates. In his Chairman's report Ian Searle reported that membership is now 270,000, an increase of 22,000 this year, but this still only represents 2% of the retired population. There are 820 U3As across the UK. The intention is to improve communication, to look more at research, to improve the provision of education and provide more support for group coordinators. New Officers were elected and Treasurer Terry Hardie gave a comprehensive report on the accounts, which are healthy.

Two motions were proposed and debated.

1) The annual registration of Networks. (Motion passed) 2) To give consideration to using the name U3A for the Trust instead of Third Age Trust (TAT). (Motion defeated).

It was an interesting day and it was important to represent Flintshire and to support the Trust at the National AGM.

**Gill Caser and Hilary Jones**

### MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL

May I remind ALL members that renewal of membership is due by 1 March 2012. As we now have more than 450 members I am inviting people to pay the £10 anytime after 1 Jan 2012 to spread the load. May I also remind members that the £2 discount will only apply to renewals posted before 1 April 2012. It will still be £12 for new members, £12 for those who renew after 1 April 2012 and those who did not renew for 2011. The subscription runs from March to March only. Send a cheque with a S.A.E. to :- **Barry Ashton, Flintshire U3A Membership Secretary, Wood Edge, St Johns Park, Rhydymwyn, Mold CH7 5HZ**

### AWAY DAYS January - April 2012

Please contact us if you are interested in any of the following events: **Judith - 01824 780221 Gill - 01352 713972**

<b>Thurs</b> 26 Jan	Guided tour of Chester Military Museum (Please note change of venue)
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<b>Wed</b> 22 Feb	Visit the Shakespeare Globe Theatre in London for Elizabethan Experience tour
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<b>Tues</b> 13 March	Guided walk Manchester and Visit to Science Museum
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<b>End March</b>	Weekend in Edinburgh
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**Contributions for the April newsletter are welcomed before 19 March 2012**

**Please contact the Editor : Viv Guntrip  
email: [latest.fu3a@yahoo.co.uk](mailto:latest.fu3a@yahoo.co.uk)**