

## For Knutsford & District – February 2012

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN – Carole English

We are making a few changes to our Newsletter: for a trial period the Newsletter will be published on alternate months and the first three will be in February, April and June. If you would like an item included you will need to make a note of the 'deadlines for copy' – the second Friday of the month before issue – Friday 13<sup>th</sup> January, Friday 9<sup>th</sup> March and Friday 11<sup>th</sup> May. Lynda has some ideas to make the Newsletter more about our members and what is going on within the groups of Knutsford U3A, as well as containing all the information you need to get the best out of your membership. We will be reviewing this arrangement in the summer.

This issue contains booking forms for two outings: Haworth Art Gallery at Accrington in March to see the collection of Tiffany Glass, and the National Arboretum and Lichfield Cathedral in May but your cheques will not be cashed at the same time (see booking information). Please remember that we do not confirm your booking – we only inform you if you are not successful.

Finally I hope many of you will come up with some inspiration for the competition we are running to find a name for this new style newsletter. The first prize will be a £15 Book Token.

I do hope you are looking forward to all that is going on in Knutsford U3A in 2012. The committee are working hard to make sure our U3A continues to prosper.

### HAWORTH ART GALLERY ACCRINGTON – WEDNESDAY 28 MARCH

The Haworth is a beautiful Arts and Crafts house with some impressive features, an excellent collection of oil painting and watercolours and the finest collection of Tiffany Glass in public hands outside of the USA. During our visit we will have a guided tour of the four themed rooms of Tiffany Glass and an opportunity to see the very different, temporary exhibition on 'Street Art' featuring Motorbike Art, Tattoos and Graffiti Art.

Before we get to the Art Gallery we are stopping at Sycamore Farm Pub Restaurant for lunch. A wide range of options is available including a carvery for £6.15 (or £4.40 for a smaller portion), choices from the main menu, sandwiches and salads. We will be leaving Knutsford Bus Station at 11 am, stopping at Sycamore Farm for 1½ hours from midday, leaving the Gallery by 4.30 pm and should be back in Knutsford by approximately 6 pm.

The cost of the tour and the coach is £12.50. Cheques should be made payable to Knutsford and District U3A, should be sent to Lynda Harris (details over page) with the booking form.

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#### Booking Form for Haworth Art Gallery

Name(s) .....

Address .....

I/we would like: ..... places for the coach and tour @ £12.50 each      £ .....

## NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

All contact details for the groups are on the back page

**Drawing and Painting:** *There are changes to the when and where.* We now meet in the rooms at Toft church every Monday between 10 am and 12 noon.. As a painting club we intend to visit Art galleries and exhibitions from time to time during the year and hopefully it will be possible to arrange an exhibition of our own at some point. I am sure other ideas will emerge as we continue to grow and flourish. We have had quite a number of new members join us recently, which is very encouraging, but there is still room for a few more. Contact: Berry Northen

**Local History:** The next meeting will be held at the Unitarian Chapel, Adams Hill, Knutsford, on Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> February at 10.30 am. Among the subjects of a talk by the Minister, Jean Bradley, will be its history and Unitarian beliefs. Tea and coffee will be served after the talk. Do come and support us. Contact: Jean Robinson

**Quiz Group:** Ian Carmichael is looking for a few more members and is hoping the group will be able to challenge the Eggheads! Contact Ian on 01565 653254

**Music Appreciation:** We have some very interesting topics for our next programme. Contact: Sue Hopkin on 01565 951839

**20<sup>th</sup> February: English Songs** arranged or composed by V. Williams, Butterworth, Quilter etc. and "An Introduction to the Life of Kathleen Ferrier" – Tessa Gurney

**19<sup>th</sup> March: "Handel's Water Music"** recreating a Royal Spectacular - the second ever performance on the River Thames – DVD presentation by renowned London biographer Peter Ackroyd.

**16<sup>th</sup> April: "Dreams and Reality: The Complexities of Running an Orchestra"** – Richard Wigley the General Manager of BBC Philharmonic.

This will be held at 3 pm in the Methodist Church and will be open to all U3A members. Full details will be in the April Newsletter.

**Not to be missed!**

### TECHNICIAN REQUIRED

We are looking for someone with **at least basic IT skills and the ability to problem solve to become the fourth member of our technical team** who set up the computers and sound system at the Knutsford U3A general meetings. These are held in the afternoon of the second Thursday of the month but you will not be required every month as a rota system will be in operation and there will always be two members of the team on duty. Full training and support will be given.

If interested please contact Carole English Tel; 01565 625815 or Robert Watson Tel; 01565 633147.

Please help us to maintain the high standard of sound and vision we are now establishing at our general meetings. Your work will be important and rewarding and you will earn and enjoy the grateful thanks of your fellow U3A members

### Booking for Haworth Art Gallery

Please send the booking form together with a cheque, made payable to Knutsford and District U3A, for £12.50 per ticket to:

Lynda Harris  
10 Lindop Close  
Knutsford  
WA16 8AY

Telephone: 01565 621058

## REVIEW OF CHRISTMAS CONCERT

Just one week before Christmas, what better way to spend an evening than sitting in the glorious surroundings of a packed Chester Cathedral, listening to Christmas words and music? After an easy drive on a cold but dry night, 43 U3A members were dropped off right at the Cathedral doors, ready to be entertained and they were not disappointed.

The music was provided by the scarlet-robed Chester Cathedral Choir – 30 young people from tots (some so small they could barely see over their music stands!) to teenagers, supported by the gentlemen of the Cathedral Choir. They gave us a full and varied programme of Christmas songs and carols, from medieval to modern, plainsong to harmony, with beautiful clear solos from some of the younger members. This is one choir that has no need of the services of the lovely Gareth!

The music was interspersed with readings – not the traditional programme, but a well chosen selection, varying from two bible passages read by choir members to an amusing take on The 12 Days of Christmas Turkey, as the cold bird becomes less and less appetising! This was performed, rather than read, by the ebullient Nick Fry, who had compered the whole evening. He also gave us Laurie Lee; the children's favourite 'Twas the Night Before Christmas' and my personal favourite, John Betjeman's 'Christmas'.

And, of course, between times, the large congregation rose to their feet to join the choir in favourite carols, sung with ever more gusto after the mulled wine and mince pies consumed in the interval!

Margaret Hinde

## NATIONAL MEMORIAL ARBORETUM AND LICHFIELD CATHEDRAL ON WEDNESDAY 9 MAY 2012

On arrival you have the option to explore the beautiful grounds on your own or of attending an act of remembrance in the chapel, with an introductory talk followed by a guided walking tour. On this you will see some of the memorials and the developing landscape. Instead of walking you can take a Land Train journey with a commentary. This costs £2.00 payable on the day.

We will meet for a pre booked lunch in the restaurant after which we will drive on to Lichfield Cathedral. There will be a conducted tour of this magnificent building followed by tea/coffee and biscuits before we make our journey home to Knutsford.

The coach will leave Knutsford bus station at 9.15 am and should be back in Knutsford by 6 pm approximately. The cost of the tour with a hot two course lunch and tea is £35. As places are limited you can book now by cheque, made payable to Knutsford and District U3A and send it to Freda Froehlich (details over page) but **your cheque will not be cashed until the end of April.**

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### Booking Form for National Memorial Arboretum and Lichfield Cathedral

Name(s).....

Address..... Phone.....

I/we would like ..... places for the coach tour @ £35      Total £ .....

I require the vegetarian lunch option for ..... people.

I have the following dietary requirement .....

## FEATURED GROUP

### ANTIQUES

The Antiques Group first met in April, 2010 and we have developed into a friendly, enthusiastic team. In about two thirds of our meetings, we address “themes”. Members bring artefacts to show and discuss and this is a very good way of learning more about a range of antiques. It does not matter that few of us are experts; we can research topics and it is always interesting to know how items have been acquired. Our themes can usually be interpreted in different ways and thus each member can find something to contribute - there have been some interesting surprises! We have so far covered silver, paper, jewellery, glass, ceramics, kitchen items and antiques of the future (collectables). Themes to come in 2012 include: containers/boxes; items in frames (not just pictures); fabrics and objects made from metals other than silver. We have a long list of ideas for future meetings.



Some members of the Antiques Group with kitchen items

So far, we have organised one visit each year and have toured The Hatworks in Stockport, Dunham Massey House and Tabley House. In 2012, we hope to visit the Silk Museum in Macclesfield.

Our remaining meetings are taken up by talks from experts, and very fascinating they are proving to be. Since September 2010, we have heard about the Gillow furniture at Tatton, the paintings at Tabley House, the life and art of Carl Fabergé and antiques through a family's history. We have also had two fascinating talks on sewing paraphernalia from group member Margaret Wilford and a presentation from Nick Hall of Frank Marshall's Auction House. In 2012, topics will include Victorian Staffordshire portrait figures and the history of silk.

There is room at our talks for visitors and we are happy to welcome new members to the Group.

Tessa Gurney

### **Booking for National Arboretum and Lichfield Cathedral**

Please send the booking form together with your cheque made payable to Knutsford and District U3A for £35 per ticket to:

Freda Froehlich  
Field Cottage  
31A Bexton Road  
Knutsford

WA16 0DZ

Telephone 01565 633045

## SIX GO MAD IN MADRID OR

## SUCKLING PIG BY THE AQUEDUCT

Art Appreciation 1 has visited many of the London galleries but venturing out of the country was something new. Six of us could not resist the offer of joining Leek U3A on an art trip to Madrid, especially as we had not long finished studying Spanish artists.

Our first day in the Spanish capital was a feast of wonderful paintings, starting in the Museo del Prado where our guide took us to see El Greco, Goya and Velazquez. Senses reeling we then arrived at the Museo Thyssen-Bornemisza, which focuses on European painting from the 13<sup>th</sup> to the 20<sup>th</sup> centuries. Again the treasures we saw were breathtaking. After a good nights sleep we were all ready to visit Toledo and its cathedral full of paintings, (El Greco again) and to a small church containing the El Greco masterpiece “The Burial of the Count of Orgaz “ a huge canvas which we all thought was stunning. On our last morning we walked in the warm autumn sunshine to the Centro de Arte Reina Sofia which houses Picasso’s Guernica. This vast canvas was both magnificent and moving and we were interested to see the collection of sketches made by Picasso for the painting.

Food for the soul is wonderful, but the body also needs sustenance, and so we became familiar sights in the Tapas bars around the Plaza Mayor and Puerta del Sol, and we also undertook some research into Spanish wines on behalf of the Wine Tasting group.

And the suckling pig?? Well that was our Sunday lunch, consumed in a little restaurant near the aqueduct in Segovia. This local delicacy was eaten as the wine was tasted – all in the interests of research!

Carole English

**Overlooking Toledo – The Researchers**  
of Spanish art, of course, but with Spanish  
food and Spanish wine included.



## LEEK U3A HOLIDAY IN MARRAKECH

We are invited to join Leek U3A on a 5 day holiday at the end of October or beginning of November 2012 based in Marrakech, including a tour of the Ourika Valley and a trip to Essaouria on the coast. Details are now being finalised, but so far the cost is around £635 for 5 days and includes, flight from Manchester, B & B at a 4\* hotel in Marrakech and a meal each day is also included, two days a dinner and three days a lunch. Single room supplement will be £69 and insurance £29.

Leek U3A have an excellent reputation for organising holidays and use Tailored Travel, an ATOL registered company, who specialise in group travel, particularly for U3A groups. Six members from Knutsford joined Leek members in Madrid in November and other Knutsford U3A members are joining the holiday to the Isle of Wight in June.

For further information please contact Carole English. Tel: 01565 625 815

## U3A SUMMER SCHOOLS 2012

**Harper Adams College, Telford** - Monday 16<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 19<sup>th</sup> July for:

Cinema History; Design Principles in Art; France - la France et les Francais d'aujourd'hui; History - England in the 19<sup>th</sup> century; Music Appreciation; Philosophy/Fiction; Poetry; Recorder Ensemble Playing; Writing Fiction

**Royal Agricultural College, Cirencester** - Monday 20<sup>th</sup> to Thursday 23<sup>rd</sup> August for:

Drama; History; Literature; Needlepoint Lacemaking; Philosophy; Psychology; Singing for Pleasure; Website Design.

The cost is £315 which includes student single en-suite room, all meals, welcome drink and evening entertainment.

Further details available from Carole English Tel: 01565 625815, or via Knutsford U3A website.

### RECOMMENDATIONS

I loved the summer school at **Royal Agricultural College in Cirencester**. First of all it is the most beautiful Victorian Gothic building all in lovely golden Cotswold stone in lovely golden Cotswold country. Important too is the fact that, being an agricultural college, they grow all their own food - even the beef - so it tastes superb and they have a brilliant chef to match.

Everybody was very kind and helpful, I met some most interesting people and last but not least, the lecturer was superb! Fascinating he was and completely unusual, which is what you want for philosophy. I gathered the other subjects were good too.

I have only one word of warning. The College was designed for the young of the Victorian landed classes and they believed in growing up tough so the heating is minimal to non existent! OK in summer? I left Knutsford in 70° degrees Fahrenheit and reached Gloucestershire in 50°! Luckily, whilst dining with some local friends, I was able to cadge a thick cardigan.

It was all, however, more than worth it. I went on my own but had a lot of fun as well as plenty of food for thought.

Anna Smyth



Jean Ellis, Tim Donnelly and Margaret Cole



John and Doreen Playdell

The five members who went to **Harper Adams** all found it an enjoyable and stimulating experience. They are seen here at the gala dinner.

## COMPETITION

Should our Newsletter have a distinctive name? Can you think of something inspirational; perhaps relating to Knutsford, us in our Third Age or both or something else?

For your chance to win a £15 book token send your entries to Lynda Harris at 10 Lindop Close WA16 8AY or [newsletter.knutsfordu3a@gmail.com](mailto:newsletter.knutsfordu3a@gmail.com). The closing date is 29<sup>th</sup> February and the winner will be selected by the Committee.

## GENERAL MEETINGS

**Held at Knutsford Methodist Church**

**Second Thursday of every month starting at 2:15 pm**

Free to U3A Members: £1:00 for Non-Members

Date	Subject
9 <sup>th</sup> February	Peter Slack is a third generation hill farmer in the Peak District National Park and an experienced after dinner speaker. Peter will talk about his experiences with, amongst other things, ramblers, electric fences and sheep. Should be an entertaining afternoon!
8 <sup>th</sup> March	Angela Gilmore from Goostrey recently returned from a three month visit to the Occupied Palestinian Territories, and will speak about her experiences there.
12 <sup>th</sup> April	David Whatton QPM (Queen's Police Medal), the Chief Constable of Cheshire. We are very fortunate to have David Whatton as our April speaker. Full details to follow.
10 <sup>th</sup> May (AGM)	Geoff Scargill is familiar speaker to many members. His subject this time is 'I Never Left School' – the first one he has done without 'music' in the title.

## PROGRAMME OF OUTINGS FOR 2012

28 <sup>th</sup> March	Tiffany Glass at Haworth Art Gallery, Accrington
9 <sup>th</sup> May	National Memorial Arboretum, Lunch and Lichfield Cathedral
21 <sup>st</sup> June	Railway journey from Settle to Carlisle
9 <sup>th</sup> September	Theatre tour at Stratford and a performance of Twelfth Night

## U3A NATIONAL PHOTOGRAPHY COMPETITION

The Theme is

**“Seasonal Britain”**

**Cities and hamlets; land and sea; parks and gardens; flora and fauna etc ...  
throughout the year**

Closing date is 8<sup>th</sup> May 2012

Full details on our website or from Carole English on 01565 625815

**Please keep this page of information. It will be reprinted only when changes occur.**

#### **Amblers**

Walks take place twice a month on Mondays or Wednesdays. Meet at 10 am in the Dog Lodge lay-by on Mobberley Road.  
Co-ordinator: Sheila Fitches  
Tel: 01565 633076

#### **Antiques**

Meetings on 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month at Legh Arms, upstairs room  
Co-ordinator: Tessa Gurney  
Tel: 01477 533076

#### **Art Appreciation 1**

Meetings on 4<sup>th</sup> Thursday of each month 7.30 p.m. Royce Court  
Co-ordinator: Margaret Joscelyne  
Tel: 01565 633147

#### **Art Appreciation 2**

Co-ordinator Jennifer Harrison 01565 633578

#### **Book Group I**

Meetings on the 4<sup>th</sup> Monday of each month 2.00 pm. to 4.00 pm. Members' Homes  
Co-ordinator: Rosemary Binns  
Tel: 01565 633670

#### **Book Group 2**

Meetings monthly usually on the 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday from 10.30 am to 12.00 in Members' Homes  
Co-ordinator: Monica Beswick  
Tel: 01565 651515

#### **Book Group 3**

Meetings monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Thursday at 10:00 am  
Co-ordinator Freda Froehlich  
Tel: 01565 633045

#### **Book Group 4**

Meetings monthly on 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month at 10:00 am  
Co-ordinator: Heulwen Emsley  
Tel: 01565 652971

#### **Bridge**

Meetings on alternate Fridays 10.00 am to 12.00 Leicester Warren Hall, Bexton  
Co-ordinator: Wendy Hurst  
Tel: 01565 722921

#### **Computing**

Co-ordinator: Robert Watson  
Tel: 01565 633147

#### **Creative Video Production**

Co-ordinator: John Napier  
Tel: 01925 754563

#### **Crown Green Bowls 1**

Meetings each Tuesday 10.30 am  
The Railway Inn Mobberley [Summer]  
Co-ordinator: Betty Montrose  
Tel: 01565 873414

#### **Crown Green Bowls 2**

[Summer] Meetings each Friday 10.30 am  
The Railway Inn, Mobberley  
Co-ordinator: Petra Pickup  
Tel: 01625 861278

#### **Drawing and Painting**

Meetings each Monday between 10.00 am and 12 noon at Toft Church rooms  
Co-ordinator: Berry Northen  
Tel: 01565 873053

#### **Family History**

Meetings on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of each month 2.00 pm  
Royce Court  
Co-ordinator: Mary Lipyeat  
Tel: 01565 652635

#### **French [Intermediate]**

Meetings on the 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursdays of each month. 2.00 pm. Members Homes  
Co-ordinator: Jill Board  
Tel: 01565 652940

#### **Garden Visits**

Random meetings when the gardens are open.  
Planning meetings about three times a year usually on a Monday.  
Co-ordinators: Jean Heap and Val Homer  
Tel: 01565 633661 and 01565 652282

#### **Geology Group**

Meetings 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday of each month in upstairs' room at The Angel 7:30 pm to 9:00 pm  
Co-ordinator: Peter Rose  
Tel: 01565 651159

#### **German for Beginners**

Meetings fortnightly on Fridays 9:30 am to 11:00 am at Methodist Church.  
Co-ordinator: David English  
Tel: 01565 625815

#### **Knitting**

Meetings monthly on 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday at 10.00 am in members' houses  
Co-ordinator: Jane McHarry  
Tel: 01565 651036

#### **Local History**

Meetings on the last Thursday of each month 10.30 am to 12.00  
Co-ordinator: Jean Robinson  
Tel: 01625 860315

#### **Luncheon Club**

Meetings on 3<sup>rd</sup> Sunday of the Month at 12:15  
Co-ordinator: Veronica Gordon  
Tel : 01565 873762

#### **Mah Jong**

Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday each month at 10:00 am at The Legh Arms  
Co-ordinator: Marjorie Aston  
Tel: 0161 929 8044

#### **Music Appreciation**

Meetings monthly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Monday from 1.45 pm to 3.15 pm at Knutsford Methodist Church.  
Co-ordinator Susan Hopkin  
Tel: 01565 651839

#### **Needlecraft**

Meetings monthly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday from 10.00 am to 12:00. Members' homes  
Co-ordinator: Judith Shirley  
Tel: 01565 652448

#### **Performance Arts – Theatre and Concert Visits**

Random meetings dependant upon performances.  
See Website for full programme details.  
Co-ordinator: Margaret Hinde  
Tel: 01565 872643

#### **Philosophy**

Meetings monthly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Wednesday. Room 5 at Methodist Church 10:30 am to 12:00  
Co-ordinator: Charles Tanner  
Tel: 01565 634046.

#### **Play reading**

Meetings monthly on the last Friday at 10:00 am to 12:00 in members' homes  
Co-ordinator: Peter Willgoose  
Tel: 01565 631255.

#### **Poetry Reading**

Co-ordinator: Veronica Gordon  
Tel: 01565 873762

#### **Scientific Book Group**

Meetings monthly on the 3<sup>rd</sup> Thursday  
Co-ordinator: Christine Falder  
Tel: 01565 654721

#### **Scrabble**

Co-ordinator: Avril Slade  
Tel: 01565 633997

#### **Seasonal Cookery**

Meetings monthly on 4<sup>th</sup> Tuesday 10am to 12.00  
Co-ordinator: Anne Rowland  
Tel: 01625 860290

#### **Spanish**

Meetings each Tuesday, 10:00 am to 11:00 am at The Methodist Church.  
Co-ordinator: David English.  
Tel: 01565 625815

#### **Spanish (Group 2)**

Meetings each Tuesday 10:30 am to 11:30 am at the Legh Arms  
Co-ordinator: Graham Rigg  
Tel: 01565 650130

#### **Speakers Group**

Meetings 1<sup>st</sup> Tuesday of the month at 7:30 pm  
At Legh Arms  
Co-ordinator: David Skinner  
Tel: 01565 632483

#### **Walking Group 1**

Walks on alternate Mondays and Wednesdays. Meet at 9:30 am in the lay-by on Mobberley Road.  
Co-ordinator: Margaret Cole.  
Tel: 01565 633569.

#### **Walking Group 2**

Walks on alternate Wednesdays and Mondays. Meet at 9:30 am in the lay-by on Mobberley Road  
Co-ordinator: Rod Howgate  
Tel: 01625 582924

#### **Wine Tasting**

Meetings monthly on 2<sup>nd</sup> Monday at 7.00 pm at St Vincent's Church Hall.  
Co-ordinators: Margaret Joscelyne and David Rowland  
Tel: 01565 633147 and 01625 860290.

#### **Writing for pleasure**

Meetings monthly on 3<sup>rd</sup> Friday at 10.00 am in members' homes  
Co-ordinator: Michael Goldman  
Tel: 01565 651717