

A Newsletter for the Carlisle and District U3A

SPRING EDITION 2019



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE



The Newly Formed Motorcycle Group...more info see page 5

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[Www.u3asites.org.uk/Carlisle](http://www.u3asites.org.uk/Carlisle)

A New Members Pack may be obtained from the Membership Secretary

Letter from the Chairman

I hope this finds you all well and enjoying your various activities as the days lengthen. Have you tried anything new recently or are you stuck with the same group you started out with ten years ago? Sometimes we need new challenges and interest to keep us going. Joining a different group may also promote new friendships and they are so precious to us all. Is the group you belong to full and won't accept anyone new or do you want to join a group that is no longer accepting new members? If so perhaps a thought about the *The Self-help Learning Principle* of the U3A Movement:

- Members form interest groups covering as wide a range of topics and activities as they desire; by the members, for the members.
- No qualifications are sought or offered. Learning is for its own sake, with enjoyment being the prime motive, not qualifications or awards.
- There is no distinction between the learners and the teachers; they are all U3A members.

In theory this means that anyone can start a new group, true some may need more expertise than others but we have some fantastic examples of people helping each other to learn - our Italian 'Beginners' are now 'Improvers', and our Tai Chi groups are continuing without their leader who, for health reasons, is unable to attend regularly. Congratulations to both these groups. So don't let your lack of expertise put you off starting a new group.

For those who have visited our website recently will find that we have made some changes on the Groups pages. Now to find contact and venue details you will need to login to the Beacon Members Portal (there is a link on the website or go to <https://www.u3abeacon.org.uk/u3aportal.php?u3a=241&sc=EKBM>). You will need your membership no. (on your card when you joined or renewed) and the information that you give on the form. You will then be able to access contact details. Please do not worry if you do not have access to the internet, a paper copy of the Daily Schedule of Interest Group Meetings will still be circulated.

With best wishes,

Hilary Farrer

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Gardening for Pleasure

The garden group is growing well, and we're developing our web pages, with lots of useful information, links to gardening web pages (handy hints and ideas for planting etc.), as well as group newsletters and members' recommendations of good gardens to visit on your own. Take a look!

18th March: Successful seed planting and propagation, with Maureen Flett, RHS Speaker.

Please bring your spare seeds, and seeds collected from your garden, for this hands-on session and 'seed swap'. The seeds should be labelled and preferably in paper envelopes.

Maureen will also talk about gardening as we get older without doing damage to ourselves.

Monday 15th April: Movement and Sound in the garden, Views and vistas and wildlife.

We'll use learning from our visit to Chapelside, Mungrisdale and other garden visits this summer as well as your own wider experience. What does it do? What can we do in our gardens? Kate Jackson, CWT Community Gardener will also introduce the garden project at Gosling Sike. **Come prepared for a fun afternoon in the CWT community garden**, ie stout shoes!

20th May: Summer Garden Visit, with Head gardener tour - details to be confirmed, at next meeting, and will be posted on web-site.

17th June: Wildlife in the garden. Kate Jackson, CWT Community Gardener, will talk about her plans and the project at Gosling Sike, and how we can incorporate ideas in our own gardens

Full summer programme available in due course.

Fiona Merritt, Group Co-ordinator

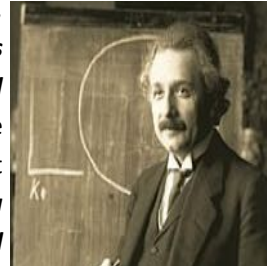
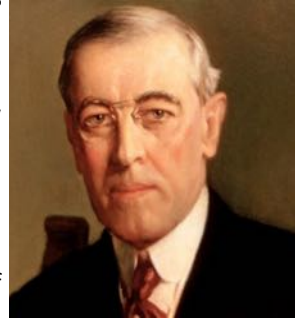
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Who vandalised the walls of Jericho?

An OFSTED inspector visited an RE lesson and posed a question: “Who knocked down the walls of Jericho?” An uneasy hush descended on the classroom, until Kevin on the front row spoke out: “It wasn’t me, sir, I was absent last week”. At this point, the RE teacher intervened defensively: “Kevin’s a good lad ... he wouldn’t have done it”. Later, the teacher reported the exchange to the Head to see if he knew anything about the vandalism. “Fraid not” replied the Head, “... but I’ll get back to you on it”. So, he mentioned this mysterious case of Jericho walls vandalism to the Education Committee, receiving a sympathetic response from the Chairman: “Sorry to hear about it ... but you might be eligible for a Lottery grant”.

Of course this humorous tale exaggerates the Biblical ignorance ... but not by much! 100 years ago [December 1918], the 28th President of the USA, Woodrow Wilson, came on a ‘pilgrimage of the heart’ to Carlisle, his mother’s birthplace and the city where his grandfather had served as a minister. During the pilgrimage, President Wilson expressed a personal conviction: ***“A man has deprived himself of the best there is in the world who has deprived himself of the knowledge of the Bible”***. Similar sentiments were recently discovered inscribed by Nobel Prize-winning physicist Albert Einstein on the flyleaf of a Bible [it sold for £52,000!]: ***“The Bible is a great source of wisdom & consolation, and should be read frequently”***.

The homeland nation of Wilson & Einstein once had a deserved reputation for being Bible-revering. But a recent Gallup survey came to the conclusion that while many Americans revere the Bible, not many actually read it! They have largely become a nation of ‘Biblical illiterates’. Are we Brits any different? Interestingly, the celebrated French author, Victor Hugo, once characterised our nation thus: ***“England has two books - the Bible and Shakespeare. England made Shakespeare, but the Bible made England.”*** Yet, experience of 30 years in the UK education system has convinced me that ‘biblical illiteracy/ignorance’ is not only endemic among the young [*Noah’s wife was not Joan of Arc!*], but also in most of their teachers & parents ... and usually minus the American reverence! We are now a nation where church-attendance is in rapid & steep decline; but, even amongst ‘churchgoers’, familiarity with the contents and teachings of the Bible is at a lamentably low level.



It's my conviction that this ignorance of Biblical teaching & values - at all levels in our society [from street to university] - has for decades had a seriously corrosive effect on the foundations of many important aspects of national life - moral, social, political, economic etc. So, I constantly ask myself, what can be done about it? Well, for a start, Carlisle U3A now has a '**Journey Into The Bible**' group, meeting every **1st Friday of the month [10.30 - 12.00]** in the 'lounge' room of **Belah Community Centre** [very near Morrison's supermarket]. Of course U3A is not a 'church' and has no formal religious affiliation; so the aim & practice is informative & educational, rather than evangelistic. The emphasis is on delving into the content to understand the message[s] ... with the help of my pre-issued sheet containing information & discussion questions. The ethos is open and informal; and although led from a position of respect for the Bible, it is recognised that interpretations can be different. Any U3A members who wish to learn about, discuss & reflect on the Bible are welcome.

Philip Little

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Reiver Riders

Yes what a response to the article in the last issue of the newsletter. So much so the group will be known as the 'Reiver Riders'.

Geoff Stockdale has written.....It was interesting to find out how many motorcycles are out there hiding under old bed sheets just waiting for a reason to get dusted off. We now have six people who have joined the group and several others (currently not members of the U3A) who will join us on our first outing on Thursday 7th. March. We will then meet on the first Thursday of each month until winter forces us to find those old bed sheets again. We are looking forward to a bright and sunny spring day on the 7th. If you want more details about this new group then contact Geoff on 07768925248 or email geoff.stockdale@btinternet.com

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From the Editor

This edition has been reduced by four pages....we need your articles and photos not just to encourage new members but to keep and encourage all to try new groups. The current membership is now over 800 and so please keep us informed of what is happening in your groups.

Monthly Meetings

Our monthly meetings are held on the 3rd Thursday of each month in the theatre at the Harraby Community Centre. The meetings start at 2pm and the talk should last no more than 45 minutes, after which tea /coffee and biscuits are served. Another great opportunity to meet and chat with other members. Our programme for the coming months is as follows:

21st. March.. Royal Agricultural Benevolent Institution....this is a welfare charity working with the farming community. Speaker Georgina Lamb

18th. April.. Thinking of an Electric Bike....Speaker Paul Clow

16th. May ..Free Self Publishing—An Idiots Guide...Speaker Tony Parker

20th. June...Story of Grasmere Gingerbread with Tasting ...I think the title speaks for itself.....Speaker Yasmine

18th July...Summer Shindig ...following the success of this event last year it has been decided to hold it again. More information in your next newsletter.

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Rhona Marr 1930—2019

It is with great sadness that we must announce the death of Rhona on Wednesday 2nd. January following a long illness. Rhona joined Carlisle U3A two years after it started and was soon asked to join the committee. Together with John and Barbara Eden she arranged day trips and away trips. These away trips became the Summer Breaks and visited such places as Glasgow, St. Andrews, York, Cardiff and Cork. These were planned with a meticulous eye to detail for both educational and social themes from Charles Rennie Mackintosh, Dylan Thomas to the Irish Stud. It was on the 5th birthday of the U3A that Rhona started the Gardening Group. She lead this group for many years until ill health forced her to stand down. Rhona was also instrumental in the organisation of the 'Spring Fling' an afternoon of fun followed by afternoon tea. Rhona will be fondly remembered by all who knew her for her sense of humour and tireless work for all in Carlisle U3A

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Executive Committee 2018 = 2019

Hilary Farrer Chairman 01228 599742 chairman@carlisleu3a.org.uk

Maurice Dutton Vice Chairman 01228 542338

Elsbeth Cooke Vice Chairman 01228 319152

Janet Dutton Secretary 01228 542338 secretary@carlisleu3a.org.uk

Beth Banks Treasurer 01228 712902 treasurer@carlisleu3a.org.uk

Sandra White Group Co-ordinator 01697475436

Co-opted members Carole Rutherford, Kath Denyer, Pat Harkness, Phil Little &

Geoff Stockdale

Other useful information:

Maurice Dutton Newsletter 01228 542338 newsletter@carlisleu3a.org.uk

Janet Dutton Membership Secretary 01228 542338 membership@carlisleu3a.org.uk

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Items for the next Newsletter

The closing date will be **Friday 10th May** Please forward any items or photos you would like to have included to the Editor at

newsletter@carlisleu3a.org.uk or you can post a printed copy to 9 Centurions Walk, Carlisle, CA3 0JL

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Coffee Mornings held at the Crown & Mitre Hotel Carlisle

The monthly Coffee Mornings held at the above city centre hotel are a great opportunity to meet other members and establish new friendships. The next get togethers are on 4th March, 1st. April and 6th. May. Your friends not members? Then why not introduce them to the U3A by bringing them along to a coffee morning.

The International Gilbert & Sullivan Festival in Harrogate

This years festival brings together the very best of professional and amateur Gilbert & Sullivan productions from around the world, including 4 new productions from the Gilbert and Sullivan Opera Company. For the past couple of years a visit to one of the productions of the festival has been organised by Ena Hutchinson. Ena proposes to do the same this year by booking sixteen tickets these will be on a first come basis so if you are interested please contact **Ena Hutchinson on 07732 970009 or email enahutchinson@yahoo.co.uk.**

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Sunday Lunch Group

The next lunch will be on Sunday 3rd March at Brampton Golf Club 12.00 for 12.30 pm. Cost will be £13.95 per person for a main course and dessert. Please book your place by contacting **Bob Reed on 01228 561681 or email reeds@rwreed.co.uk.** Further dates and venues will appear on the website events page in due course.

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SOLE MATES WALKING GROUP

The forthcoming programme is as follows:

28th. February Caldbeck Mast.....Meet at Dalston 10am or Caldbeck at 10.30 am. (GR 324398) Walk is 5 miles up and down 100 m incline and a possibility to extend by 2 miles. Good surfaces. Walk Leader Dave Wheeler

14th. March Rosthwaite/Bowder Stone/Grange....Meet 9.30am A6/M6 or 10.45 Rosthwaite Car Park (GR257148) which is National Trust ...members bring your cards....6.5-7 miles Walk Leader.Dave Moscrop

28th.March Flood Defence Walk ...Meet 10.30 at the Auctioneer.3-4 miles followed by our 15th. Anniversary lunch. Walk Leader Everyone

Forthcoming walks to be arranged details on the website.

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English Country Dancing

Here is another date for your diaries. This group's Day of Dance will be held on Saturday 20th. July at Thursby Village Hall when the caller will be Hilary Herbert. If you require any more information regarding this event or even joining the group then please contact Shirley Leighton by text 0770999896 or email shirleyvleighton@gmail.com.