

Skelmersdale and District April



Newsletter 2024

u3a is a UK wide, cooperative movement of people no longer in full time work who come together to continue their educational, social and creative interests. Our branch of the nationwide U3A is now in its thirteenth successful year. If you are interested, you are most welcome to join us for a free taster visit to one of our activities. For further details please Telephone Elaine, 01695 726660 or visit Skelmersdale u3a:Home

Joining us in Skelmersdale u3a is a great way to find and develop new interests and make great friends in a relaxed environment. Membership fee is only £12 a year.

Guest Speaker Meeting, Thursday, March 21st

It was great to see so many members at our meeting last Thursday to hear Brian Topping, 'life of a retired undercover customs officer during the 70s and 80s at Heathrow airport'.

One passenger from Ireland had a bottle with cloudy liquid inside his case saying, 'it was Holy Water!' when examined it turned out to be Poteen - homemade alcoholic Irish drink.

Told about a Miss World competition here in UK when Miss Bermuda was involved bringing drugs into the country.

A trilby hat was worn by a criminal trying to bring diamonds hidden in the lining of the hat. The number of illegal drugs smuggled into the country each year was two hundred and fifty billion pounds.

Brian would also like to say a very grateful thanks for the donation of £29.19 for 'Friends of Frankie badges' which we donated. I have him down to visit us once more by impatient members who have requested a return. Brian is fully booked for 2024 and is now booking for next year. We will just have to be patient I promise to book Brian again soon. [Sally]



Book Club

In January's we read 'The Clockmaker's Daughter', by Kate Morton which was an intriguing read told from the perspective of a ghost trapped in the house she died in. A mysterious murder and passionate love affair kept us guessing to the end.

February's book was 'Transcription' by Kate Atkinson set in and after the Second World War the main character Juliet is working for MI5 but nothing as heroic as a spy but a secretary for a spy and how her life panned out after the war

The March book is 'Tsarina' by Ellen Alpsten. Set in Russia 1699 it is the story of a young woman surviving on her wits until she catches the eye of Peter the Great. A story of lust, violence and power as a peasant girl rises from rags to riches.

[Jenny]



Craft at Marji's 11 -1pm March 25^h

We will be decorating masquerade masks, using paint, shiny and sparkly embellishments, feathers, flowers, butterflies and anything else we find in my den. The group is really relaxed. We create, chat, have a laugh and usually finish the session with a bowl of homemade soup (but I am thinking we could have sandwiches instead with the nicer weather). As I run the group from home, I am limited to how many I can squeeze in. If you would like to come along, please let me know. You only need to bring your imagination and creativity nothing else! You can go as wild as you want, it is your mask. I am really looking forward to seeing what you all come up with. If you have anything you would like i.e. colours, embellishments please let me know and I will do my best to get it in for you. Marji



Coffee Afternoon

On Monday 4th March we had our biggest group since I joined u3a, 14 people were there. There were a couple of new faces popping in to see what we are all about and old faces returning. We certainly kept the staff of Siesta very busy and will soon take over all the outside space and tables if we get any bigger, which would be fantastic! There was a very eclectic mix of conversations going on all around the tables and it was nice to see so many happy smiley faces. This is a great group if you want to sit and chat or just chill and listen in, we look forward to seeing you there. [Marji]

Committee News



Further to the mandatory Health and Safety policy the following recommended Risk Assessment Checklists have been adopted by our u3a to cover ,

Day Trips

Venue based :-Library, Ec. Centre, restaurants, cafes, garden centres, etc.

Home Based

Walk leader risk assessment checklist

Personal member risk assessment

Neill would like to thank all Activity Group leaders for completing the model risk assessment checklists.

North West Region News

Qs & As

Occasionally we get questions about why u3as are linked to the Third Age Trust.

What happens if a u3a decides they do not want to belong to the Trust? If that happens, and the group withdraws its membership of the Trust, they cease to be a u3a. They can no longer use the title and they lose all benefits provided by Trust membership.

What does the Trust do for us? The Trust is a support organisation and consists of elected Trustees for the Board and a small office. Their main role is to ensure that u3a members understand their obligations under Charity Law and to provide advice and support to keep the members informed. They also provide benefits such as insurance; create activities online; run a brand centre where you can buy advertising materials; produce TAM magazine and the online newsletters – and more.

Our u3a is doing well. We do not see any reason to get involved in regional and national activities.

Congratulations. It is good to know that you are doing well but you are all part of a region and you are all part of the u3a movement. However, your members are entitled to know what is being offered outside your u3a and it is their own decision whether they take part so please do not make a decision not to bother telling your members.

Gill Russell [Chair] The complete news item is available at the following website...

Activities

March

- Th. 21st Monthly **Speaker Meeting** 2-4pm Library - Speaker Barry, Topic - Covid Detect Dogs,[Sally]
- SS. 24th **Sunday Lunch**, meet 12.30pm, at the Stanley Arms in Aughton. [Contact Alan]
- M. 25th **Craft Group** 11-1pm at Marji's.[Masks]
25th **Yoga** with Ramlah, 2-3pm Library
- W 27th **Bowls** 2-4pm Main Hall, Ec Centre, Ann
- Th. 28th **Curry Club** with Elaine 6pm at Raj Gate

April

- M. 1st **Bank Holiday, no Coffee Afternoon**
- T. 2nd **Singing for Fun** 2-4pm Library. [Neill]
- W . 3rd, **Bowls** 2-4pm Ec. Centre
- Th. 4th **Discussion Group** 2-4pm library, Neill and David, **Topic ???**
- M. 8th **Yoga** 2-3pm Library
- T. 9th **Gardening** Whitakers with Jenny, 11am
- W 10th **Bowls**
- Th. 11th **Monthly Walk**, Neill, **Venue ???**
- SS. 14th **Book Club** with Jenny, 10.30 – noon,
Pimbo Garden Centre Café
- M 15th **Coffee Afternoon** at Siesta Café
- T.16th **Singing for Fun**
- W. 17th **Bowls**
- Th.18th Monthly **Speaker Meeting** 2-4pm in
Library , **Speaker/Topic ???**
- M. 22nd **Yoga**
- W. 24th **Bowls**
- SS. 28th **Sunday Lunch** with Alan, 12.30, at
Primrose Farm, Wigan. WN3 6QJ

LATE NEWS 18/03/2024

The following notice, from the Committee was emailed, but arrived too late to be included in the recent newsletter.

'Good evening, all

AGM will take place on Thursday 9th May, 2 PM at Skelmersdale Library.

The information packs will be getting emailed out soon so please keep an eye for them.

Nomination forms for the committee are attached to this email

There will be some printed forms available at the General meeting on Thursday.

The committee has made the decision to raise the yearly subscription from £12 to £14 from 31st March 2024. You can renew your subscription any time now - pass on to any committee member. Can you please let the members secretary know of any changes to your contact details.'

Doubtlessly by now, fortunate members who can access emails will have received this notice.

Not surprisingly this notice has completely baffled many members, giving rise to many questions.

Why has the Committee called an AGM?

Is the membership to understand that the current Trustee/ Committee will be standing down and the nomination form is to elect a new Committee?

What if a member does not wish to or unable to receive an information pack by email?

What if a member does not have access to a computer, phone, printer?

Can the Trustees appoint a person to be an officer if a person has already been elected or appointed to that office and has not vacated the office. Currently the Committee has two Treasurers.

Can the Trustees guarantee that every member will receive an information pack containing all documents relevant to an AGM as the Constitution states.

Why is the membership subscription being increased?

To date only one answer has been verified by the Trustees 20/03/2024

'The nomination forms are if anyone wants to join the committee, no one is standing down from the committee. As you know we are always looking for new members. The committee will run as usual during 2024.'

Why has the Committee called an AGM? Hopefully the information pack will unconfuse.com