

## Skelmersdale U3A Christmas Newsletter 2018



### A Very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year

**Hello Everyone,**

**Yet another year has flown by and a New Year is quickly approaching.**

**Overall Skelmersdale U3A has had yet another good year and we are looking forward to interesting topics from our monthly guest speakers. Our first speaker of the New Year will be Peter Keen who will give a talk on The History and Proposed Development of the Sankey Canal.**

**Sincere thanks must be given to our activities coordinators for all their enthusiasm and organization. They are the backbone of every U3A for without them we could not function. In January many of the groups will be meeting to plan more exciting events and activities for the New Year.**

**Also thanks are extended to all members who volunteered and were elected to serve on the Committee. The Committee is held legally responsible for the smooth running of our U3A.**

**In response to a bid made to West Lancs. Community Chest, by Alice, we successfully received a grant of £400 with which a new laptop was bought for the sole use of keeping members' personal data and financial funds secure.**

## **Report on U3A Monthly Meeting**

**On Thursday, 15<sup>th</sup> November, 2018 some 20 members attended a well prepared and illustrated up date by Steve Hodges of the Ground work Trust on the Tawd Valley Park improvement scheme. There has been much behind the scenes planning and LCC are about to appoint contractors to construct the new cycleway from the Concourse to Summer Street. The WLBC will be extending the cycleway from Summer Street to Whalleys and along Cobbs Clough. This route to the town centre will, hopefully, be completed as the housing is built on Whalleys. Ambitious plans include a sculpture trail in Cobbs Clough.**

**Funds from the Whitemoss Landfill Community Fund have been awarded to improve the fishing pond close to half mile island and provide fishing pegs, platforms at the edge, so that fisherpersons can keep their feet dry. A foot path will link them to Mill Lane.**

**A steering group of many public bodies plus Groundworks is overseeing the project. School children and young people from West Lancashire College are engaged on litter picking, nature studies, and basic conservation work. Bat boxes made at Lathom High have been placed high up in trees.**

**A volunteers group has started work clearing paths and preparing to plant trees in a Community Orchard close to the existing allotments. This meets every Friday morning and on the first Saturday every month. Who knows but some of our members may go along to help.**

**Other features including, wetland habitat areas, improvements to the amphitheatre to create an informal event space, a heritage trail and mining heritage centre along with picnic spaces, landscape improvement close to the town centre are aspirations.**

**Paula Campbell, Community Leisure Manager, WLBC, enthusiastically supported Steve and showed us the large scale master plan. As a result of our conversation I am optimistic that the stone sculpture that will be removed to make way for the proposed car park for the Lidl and B& M stores will be reused as part of a children play area. Steve is well aware of the unresolved design issues concerning the link between the park and the St Modwen development. I am optimistic that the scheme will be successful and a benefit to Skelmersdale. Skelmersdale- A town for walking might be a slogan.**

**David Cheetham 16/11/18**

### Walking Group News

**Our last walk of the year was around Lathom on Thursday, 11<sup>th</sup> October. Lathom is our local historical district. Lathom House was besieged during the Civil War. The fate of the Lancashire Witches was partly decided at Lathom, the Beatles and Noel Coward held performances there.**



**Lathom Chapel**

---



### **7<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Lancashire Day Celebration**

**On Monday, 26<sup>th</sup> November around a third of our members met at the Ecumenical Centre for our get together.**

**Tons of food and refreshments were enjoyed by all.**

**Don regaled us with the history of Lancashire Day.**

**Lancashire Day is our county day and is held on 27<sup>th</sup> November each year to commemorate the day in 1295 when Lancashire first sent representatives to Parliament, in order to attend the Model Parliament of King Edward I.**

**It was first held in 1996 and is observed with the loyal toast to ‘The Queen, Duke of Lancaster.**

**The day is marked by Town Criers announcing the Lancashire Day Proclamation.**

**The ‘Duke of Lancaster’ is an ancient title that is informally used to describe Queen Elizabeth II who privately owns around 18,000 hectares known as the Duchy of Lancaster which is administered separately from the Crown Estates.**

**To finish our celebration Don recited Mike Harding’s ‘Ballad of Cowheel Lou’ and David gave the vote of thanks for all members who helped to make a very pleasant event.**



**On Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> December, 2018 nearly fifty of our members met at Briars Hall for a Christmas Dinner lunch followed by entertainment.**

**Everyone expresses their thanks to Ann for yet another entertaining and most enjoyable outing.**



**Maintaining the Christmas Festivities on Thursday, 20<sup>th</sup> December thirty two members attended the Monthly Meeting at the Ecumenical Centre for refreshments and delicious mince pies and cream cakes.**

**Compared by Don and led by our Singing for Fun Group Singers we all joined in to a Christmas Sing-along.**

**David our chairman assured everyone that potential disruption to our activities in the New Year, due to refurbishment, would be minimal as alternative accommodation in the building will be available.**

**Our get together ended with a vote of thanks to our Singers, and all who had helped to produce yet another most enjoyable afternoon.**

**Our next get together will be on 5th January, 2pm at the Little Theatre in Southport for our Pantomime.**

**That is about all the news for 2018. Our February and March Newsletter will be available at our Monthly Meeting on Thursday, 17<sup>th</sup> January, 2019, 2.15pm at the Ecumenical Centre.**

**It remains to wish all our members a very happy Christmas and a peaceful and healthy New Year.**