

## Skelmersdale U3A November 2018 Newsletter



Photo Fireworks at the 2018 Edinburgh Tattoo

Welcome to this month's newsletter, hopefully everyone has recovered from the crashes, bangs and wallops of this year's bonfire celebrations.

Throughout October we again had a full timetable of current activities.

### About us,

We are a branch of the nationwide U3A. We are mostly all retired and semi retired who now have time in which to actively sustain our wellbeing in later life.

Membership is currently £12 per year from April to March. There is a sliding scale for new members who join during the year and the minimum to pay in order to cover insurance is £3.50.

We share educational, creative and social activities. Our members form interest groups covering a range of topics and activities.

All our activities endeavour to stimulate our mental, physical and social needs.



## Walking Group News



Thursday, 13<sup>th</sup> September

Today our walk was Standish Lower Ground. Fourteen members met at the Charnley Arms in Standish and set out on a lovely sunny morning walking about 4 miles through the Standish and Shevington countryside.

Points of interest were the farm animals and the equestrian centre.



Our walk finished back at the Charnley Arms for well deserved lunch. Brian was leading solely today and he made a good job of it, but we missed you Ann. CS and JW

Sadly, due to an overload of other commitments Brian has announced that he will no longer lead the Walking Group.

For the past seven years Brian has organized walks and eating places each month and we wish to thank him for all his interest and enthusiasm.

As usual there is no walk in December as that is the day of our Christmas Dinner at Briars Hall. The next meeting of the group will be at the Ecumenical Centre on Thursday, 10<sup>th</sup> January 2019 to discuss future walks and activities.



## Report of U3A Special General Meeting 18 October 2018

Following receipt of apologies from Don and Alice, incoming Chairman David read out a statement of proposals for new committee take over and the names of the six members nominated to serve on the new committee: Alan Speers, Marlene Doran, Sally Bayley, Cliff Mawdesley, Barbara Gater and David Cheetham will become trustees.

David has been proposed as Chairman, Barbara as Treasurer and Marlene will take over as Secretary.

Of the existing 8 committee members Don Evan, Alice Evans and Jenny Woods will be stepping down as they have exceeded their terms of office but will offer support as required.

Mary Parkin, Gill Bayliss, Carol Sutcliffe, Paul Johnson and Debbie Readon continue on the committee and as trustees.

In very brief comments David expressed our thanks to Don, Alice and Jenny for their perseverance in continuing beyond their permitted terms of office to ensure the continued existence of our group. He is optimistic for the future of Skelmersdale U3A and looked forward to learning of the policies of the third age trust and receiving the support of the members.

Many were desperate for a cup of tea following our brief, but very necessary Special General Meeting and solved an old money puzzle that provoked chatter and reminiscences. Would modern teenagers go out to work to earn £3- 10/- 0d? Even more: Would they be content to hand their wage packet over to their mothers and be pleased to be given 10 shillings pocket money for day to day expenses, bus fares etc?

The answer was forty one pounds eleven shillings and one penny and a farthing. My learning was that a "Joey" was a slang term for a multisided three penny bit!

All new and existing committee members are invited to the committee meeting at 2.00pm on Monday 5 November at the Ecumenical Centre. The "secret" location of our Christmas Lunch – Briars Hall - was revealed and dates of future activities announced.

DWC 19/10/18

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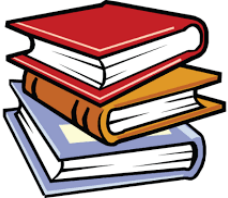
### History Group 31 October – Trip to Wigan Museum – Death in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century

We agreed to meet at the café near Wigan Museum only to discover it had vanished. The 5 of us finally gather to hear Dr Charlie Guy talk about the customs relating to Death in the 19th Century. Our memories were jogged to remember, Oliver Twist – he was a child mute. There were all sorts of superstitions, bridges – you could only cross

over it once if it was between the church and the grave yard a new route had to be found, the last body in the grave yard couldn't rest easy until he passed the responsibility to the next body..... and of course opening the window after a death. Dr Guy encouraged the audience to chip in. We chatted how our personal experiences had changed with the times. Spiritualism developed and affected the beliefs of the time, and of course Burke & Hare. They speeded up development of safety coffins!!!! No, there were no bells, but complex systems to stop the body snatchers both in the coffin and above ground.

Next meeting Friday 30 November

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### Book Club News

The Book Club met on Sunday 14<sup>th</sup> October at the cafe in Pimbo Garden Centre to discuss last month's book, 'The Blind Assassin' by Canadian author Margaret Atwood first published in 2000. It was an enjoyable read but rather complicated in as much as it a novel within a novel.

Set in fictional towns in Canada during the 1930's and 40's it is a work of historical fiction with the major events of Canadian history forming an important backdrop.

The novel was awarded the Booker Prize in 2000.

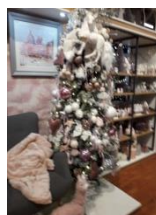
Our next meeting will be on the 9<sup>th</sup> December.

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On Monday 26<sup>th</sup> November, [usually a Coffee Afternoon] we will be celebrating our belated 7<sup>th</sup> Birthday and Lancashire Day at the Ecumenical Centre 2-4pm. All members are welcome to enjoy refreshments, culinary delights, entertainments and raffle.

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Gardening Group Trip to Bents Garden Centre Tuesday, 6<sup>th</sup> November

Seven members visited the garden centre. Having all met up in the eating area we decided to eat first then have a look round and maybe do a bit of retail therapy. Christmas at Bents was very pale colours white/pale grey and pinks. The place was packed with people so I don't think much therapy was active. Ideas were more in order and a few did make purchases were made. All have said it was an enjoyable day out. SB