

Skiddaw News: Issue 32 April/May 2019

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Chairs letter No 32: April 2019

Dear Member

We are now less than a month away from our sixth Annual General Meeting on Wednesday 17th April at 10:00 in Crosthwaite Parish Rooms. The AGM is a meeting of our membership that is required by our constitution. Activities at the meeting include election of the Executive Committee, making important decisions and informing members of previous and future activities. The meeting is conducted by our Business Secretary, Halle Stenhouse. We will first agree the minutes of our last AGM. As chairman I will read my report and our treasurer, Leela Marsh, will present our financial report. Acceptance of these reports must be proposed and seconded by members of the audience. All of these documents are available on our website and you will have received a copy with this newsletter. All members of the current Executive Committee stand down and a new committee is elected. So it is important that we receive your nominations before the meeting. In order to hold the AGM we must have at least 10% of the membership present so we need around 50 of you to attend that meeting. The formal proceedings take less than 20 minutes and will be followed by refreshments. Then we will move on to our guest speaker Stuart Eastwood with a talk entitled "Cumbria during World War One".

In March Maggie Potts and I hosted a meeting of the North Cumbria Network of U3As. Invitees include Carlisle, Penrith & North Lakes, Cockermouth, Thwaite, West Cumbria - Whitehaven and West Lakes. The group looks at issues and opportunities that exist across all our U3As. Among other things we have started to look at organising a third conference following on from the success of the Energy conferences in 2015 & 2017. The conference would be planned for October 2020 and work would commence in October this year. The event requires a number of volunteers but initially we are looking for members to help with the organisation so if you are able to help please let me know.

Hopefully the weather is now beginning to improve and our outdoor groups can get into full swing. I am certainly looking forward to getting back on the lake when watersports restarts on 18th April.

Look forward to seeing you there.

Best wishes

Debbie Morgan

Debbie Morgan

Chair, Executive Committee

Monthly General Meetings

Meetings 10:30 to 12:00 (refreshments from 10:00) unless otherwise stated

Wednesday 17thth April – Crosthwaite Parish Rooms Starts 10.00am
AGM followed by Guest Speaker Stuart Eastwood "Cumbria during World War One"

Wednesday 15th May – Threlkeld Village Hall

Fool's Gold (Acoustic duo) – "Bang up to the Elephant" songs and stories from the Victorian era

From your Committee

YOUR COMMITTEE NEEDS YOU



Our AGM is in April. As you will have seen from the Christmas Newsletter, a number of committee members will have to retire within the next year as they will have completed their maximum term of office. To ensure Skiddaw U3A continues to run smoothly, we need to elect some new committee members at this year's AGM.

If you are the sort of person who likes working with others, making arrangements and helping within the community, then please put your name forward. For more information and to find out what it involves, have a chat with any of the committee members.

GROUP SUPPORT FUND

The aim of the Group Support Fund is to support group activities by purchasing on behalf of groups items which are used in common by all members of the group eg textbooks, CDs, subscriptions to magazines, web sites etc. Further information about the Fund and how it operates can be found on our website.

Applications are invited from Group Convenors. There is no deadline for applying: a copy of the application form can be found on our website or supplied via a committee member.

SKIDDAW U3A ARTS FESTIVAL

“A Showcase for our Skills and Talents”

Music, dance, art, photography, creative writing, poetry, pottery are just some of huge variety of the skills and talents of our members. The committee is considering a social event in late summer/early autumn with wine and cheese and with entertainment, displays and exhibitions.

Do you think this is a good idea – would you support such an event? If so, get in touch with any committee member – contact details are on your membership card.



DAYS OUT: An Opportunity to Join Keswick Society of Art trips to

Kirkcudbright “Artists Town of Scotland” on April 30th Cost £20

“Patchings Arts Festival” near Nottingham. Overnight trip. Cost approx. £80

For full details contact Ted McArdle:
mcardle1@talktalk.net or visit KSA website

INCLUSIVITY – U3A Plus

Skiddaw U3A has set up the Accessibility scheme whereby those in need of transport are put in touch with a volunteer willing to offer transport. The take up of this continues to be limited. The success of such schemes depends on the participation of all members, not just the committee.

If you need help getting to monthly meetings or you would like to volunteer to be a driver you will find more details below:

Wbsite: transport@skiddawu3a.co.uk or phone 017687 76347 or mobile 07803 714081

Opinion Piece: *Do you have a Bee in your Bonnet about an issue? If so, please contact the Editor, Maggie Potts – phone 017687 73582 or email: randmpotts@gmail.com*

NEXT NETWORK ENERGY CONFERENCE

The Northwest U3A Network are hoping to start planning the Third Energy Conference later this year. Doing this successfully depends on being able to recruit two or three members to help with the organisation and administration. If you have some experience of organising conferences or similar events and would like to help, please contact Maggie Potts tel: 017687 73582 or email randmpotts@gmail.com

NORTHWEST REGION OF U3As

Residential Summer School

27th to 30th August 2019: Newton Rigg College Penrith

Topics: archaeology, art appreciation, geology, history, music appreciation, philosophy, ukulele and science. Full programme available and booking forms on web site: <https://u3asites.org.uk/north-west/events>

For further information contact Alan Hough on 07544 359125 or alanhough1949@gmail.com

****NEW GROUPS and GROUP NEWS****

DO IT YOURSELF GROUP

It has been suggested that a Do It Yourself Group, to advise on Basic DIY, would be helpful to some members.

In order for this to happen, we need someone willing to take on the role of group convenor. There must be many members who have the knowledge and ability to do DIY, so please consider helping others who find themselves in need.

If you are interested in being the convenor for or would like to join this group should it start, then please contact Barbara Newton either by email groups@skiddawu3a.co.uk or phone 07803 714081.

GOLF CROQUET DUE TO START APRIL

Golf Croquet is played on a normal Croquet Lawn with 6 hoops and a Peg. It is the simplest form of Croquet. It is normally played by 2 teams of 2 players who are all on the court all the time.

The Lawn in Fitz Park would be available each Monday from Easter to September 5pm to 7 pm. If you would like to have a go please contact Elizabeth Barraclough: elizabeth.barraclough@ncl.ac.uk or phone 017687 72771

GROUP REPORTS

POETRY READING

The Poetry Reading group encountered Gillian Clarke's 'Miracle on St David's Day' as the first item at their meeting on March 1st. This is a lovely poem in which a dumb man listens to poetry and suddenly starts to speak again after decades of silence. And what does he say? He recites Wordsworth's 'The Daffodils' which he learnt by heart at school.

This was followed by a sharing of W.B. Yeats' 'Wild Swans at Coole'. The group enjoyed this so much that they spontaneously continued with other poems by Yeats available in their Golden Treasures. As a result of discussing these, it was decided that at least an hour of the next meeting would be dedicated to sharing some research on the life and work of the great Irish poet.

The session finished with the work of another Celt: Robbie Burns. His 'Duncan Gray' and 'John Anderson, my jo' were greeted with pleasure and laughter, while 'To a Field Mouse'

provided a suitably philosophical close. It was hoped that we could fit in 'Mary Morrison' but, as we all know, "The best laid schemes o' mice and' men gang aft a-gley"!

Gill Frances

POPULAR SCIENCE

The popular science group is now in its 6th year and with the growing membership having scientific backgrounds that vary from no science education to retired professors, our aim is to make science interesting and understandable by everyone. Our monthly meetings are always friendly and normally take the form of a talk followed by questions and discussion. The December meeting gives the group a chance to take part in a fun science quiz. Over the past year we have had talks on global warming, what is so special about water, medical scans and what they can detect, the possibility of cancer prevention, colour – how we see and print colour and an explanation of some of the colourful effects we can see in the sky, algorithms and the Turing machine – the forerunner of computers, the way our (medical) drugs work and a discussion as to who was the greater scientist – Newton or Einstein. Details of our future programme can be found on the popular science group page of the website. New members are always welcome whether it is just for one meeting on a topic of special interest or for regular meetings.

Sue Ashley

POTTERY

Both the Wednesday morning and afternoon pottery groups, run by Vron Spencer, are now happily ensconced in their new premises in a studio at the Makers Mill, in Keswick. Vron had the unenviable task of moving all of the equipment previously in use in her garage at home, down to this new abode in January. Her kiln, sadly, was too old to weather the move but Skiddaw U3A have kindly financed a new kiln for use in the studio.

As always, a huge range and variety of items are being produced – the animal world is well represented with penguins, geckos frogs, hares, rabbits, owls, fish etc. plus vessels of all shapes and sizes. New techniques have been learnt, such as Scraffito whereby coloured slips are applied to plates and bowls and various patterns are then inscribed on to the surface prior to firing.

Unfortunately, the current waiting list is still ongoing for this popular pastime.

Vron Spencer

RECORDER

The group meets once a week at my house. We play pieces we learnt earlier and try out news works. The music ranges from early music to modern. Now that there are those who play treble and tenor recorders as well as decant, more interest is added by playing in three and four part music. Beginners soon fit in but it helps to be able to read music. At Christmas we have played carols to the older people in residential homes in Keswick and to Amy's Care group. We finish each session with tea and cake and a chatter. The more layers the better so come along with your school recorder and join us.

Judy Duncan

ROAMERS

21/03/2019; Heughscar Hill: A riot of vivid yellow greeted the Roamers as they ambled out of the daffodil-carpeted Askham. A gentle climb led them to the summit of Heughscar Hill – modest in height but affording spectacular views of Ullswater and the surrounding fells. Navigating through a maze of paths criss-crossing Moor Divock was made easier owing to the excellent OS map – one of the set of four covering the Lake District and kindly funded by the Committee. With its help, the group traversed the extensive plateau before descending to the picturesque Helton, now basking in the sunshine. From there, the route led to, over, and then along, the lively River Lowther via the interestingly named hamlet of Whale. A short detour to, and a pit stop at, Lowther

Castle proved irresistible before the group crossed the river again to return to the village.

Anna Nolan

FAMILY HISTORY

Family history is a very informal group. It meets monthly in a members' house. Members discuss what they have been doing in researching their family trees and updating the group on progress or lack of it. Any sticking points they have come up against are discussed and the collective experience around the table usually has a solution.

Those members who are not particularly computer literate are shown how to research their family on Ancestry or Find My Past. Both search engines are used because they have different records available. Contact names & addresses for other family history groups are shared if particular research is needed in a parish not within travelling distance. Practical advice is shared about such mundane things as filing and retrieval plus cross referencing to ensure that any addition to a family tree has relevant documentary evidence.

We have trips to military museums to assist in war record research or County Archives to learn how to use their record and retrieval systems correctly and efficiently.

There is a general air of enjoyment around the table especially when some-one discovers an interesting family member e.g. a relation who was a member of the Tolpuddle Martyrs or some-one who was transported for stealing. And, of course, there is coffee and biscuits.

Nigel Lewis

SCRABBLE GROUP

The Scrabble group has settled in well to its new location in Lakehead Court. There are usually three tables of members at play, but there is space for anyone else who would like to come and join in. Anyone who saw the film 'Sometimes, Always, Never' at the recent film festival might be feeling inspired to either rediscover the game or give it a try!

Aline Hopkins

PUB GAMES

Every two weeks, we meet in the Farmers at 8.30pm for a couple of hours of pub games: although a relaxing social group, it sometimes becomes very quiet when we are working out our strategies or trying to do mental arithmetic! We have learned some different and intellectually challenging forms of dominoes, as well as played Yahtzee, gin rummy, bananagrams, whist, darts and rummikub. If you don't know what these games are, come along and have a go. Helen and Steve, our hosts, generously supply us with a supper, free of charge about half way through and it seems to have become a tradition that the evening finishes with everybody joining in a game of UNO. As an extra treat Richard brings his electric card shuffler which everyone wants to play with.

Maggie Potts

NOTICEBOARD

KESWICK COMEDY WALKS

Former Town Crier, Bob Bryden and current Town Crier, Dave Hall invite you to a guided walk round Keswick with a comedy twist!

Bob & Dave (supported by Ross Brewster & Peter Newton) will be leading the general public round areas of Keswick, dressed in authentic Town Crier costume, whilst telling jokes with a Cumbrian theme. After a walk round town, ticket holders will be presented with a meal in Moot Hall, provided by Merendas. The evening will also feature surprise entertainment and a short talk from Lake District Calvert Trust.

DATE: Mon 1st July at 5.45pm, opposite Theatre by the Lake. Predicted finish time of 9pm.

COST: £12 per ticket

PAYMENT: Please call Bob Bryden on 07496 194 690 to secure your place & arrange payment

NB: The walk is wheelchair accessible and will not be going over any fells! Although designed to be a fun evening out, the Comedy Walks are also a way of spreading awareness about Lake District Calvert Trust. With that in mind, a collection will be taken at Moot Hall, following a brief talk, to help the Trust continue their fantastic work providing challenging outdoor activities to people with disabilities.

**BOOK PUBLISHING One day Workshop 6th June or 7th June 2019
Portinscale 9.30am to 4.00pm**

One day Workshop to be run by Cathy Woodhead (Delfryn Publications). Topics include proofreading, formatting, ISBNs, book printing, marketing and ebooks.

Places limited so early booking advised. For more information and to book a place email julie@mindfell.co.uk