



CHAIR'S MESSAGE

Hello everyone and welcome to our last newsletter of 2023.

It has been a very busy year with its ups and downs but thankfully, we have more than just survived it thanks to everyone pulling together and supporting new ideas. We have welcomed a goodly number of new members, expanded our range of group activities and even arranged a 5 day holiday to Cheddar, Bath and Wells to take place next April – a first for Winsford u3a I think. We are having a Christmas party this year with a buffet, music and dancing where we hope we might socialise with a wider group of people than at a traditional sit-down meal.

There are some exciting new events on the horizon, not least the introduction of a speaker programme. This, and a new venue for members' meetings/coffee mornings, is explained later in this newsletter.

Nothing that happens would happen without the hard work and commitment of our group co-ordinators and your committee. I wish to express my sincere thanks to them. I also want to wish each and every one of you a warm, happy and merry (!) Christmastide.

Bev Penter

DECEMBER COFFEE MORNING



The Coffee Morning on Friday 29th December at St. Andrews will be on a Twixmas theme - celebrating the Christmas just gone, and anticipating a better New Year.

Refreshments of tea, coffee and a mince pie will be free and there will be table treats

Please come and support this event, the last at St. Andrews, and if you can bear it, wear something bright, sparkly /and or seasonal.

GROUP NEWS

LUNCH GROUP

Lunch this month will be on 14 December at The Woodpecker. reserve your place with Jackie or Marion as usual

UKULELE GROUP

The group performed at The Christmas Lights Turn On, 24 November.

They will also be performing at the Christmas Tree Festival at St Chad's on 9 December at 2pm. Please go along and support them

STROLLERS

December's Stroll will be on the Whitegate Way - meeting at Whitegate Station Cafe.

DECEMBER CANCELLATIONS

Groups cancelled for December :

Photography

Scrabble

Women in History

Play Reading

Family History

Local History

The Last December Keep Fit sessions will be on 15 December

MORE GROUP NEWS

NOVEMBER AFTERNOON TEA

Our recent visit to The Gate Inn, Winsford was a gathering of members in their “Cosy Tearoom.” We were served drinks first in the most quirky and eclectic collection of tea and coffee pots.

Then followed the tiered display of sausage rolls, various sandwiches and sweet cakes and tasty home baked scones. Of course the old debate “cream or jam first”.

Wonderful conversation and friendship.

What a great way to spend an afternoon.

Look out for more outings and events, come and chat at the next coffee morning on Fri 24/11 which will be your last chance to sign up for the Panto matinee performance held at The Grange Theatre on Sat 30/12 at 2pm. Cost £17.50 plus £1 session fee.

Hope to see you all soon

“ohh yes we will “

Steph and Kay U3A Trips.



u3a learn,
laugh,
live

u3a QUIZ

The new style u3a quiz had its second outing in November at the United Reform Church and was a great success. Four teams of four battled it out for the prize. It is gratifying that the number of people attending has grown but there is still room for two more teams. Participants remarked that the quiz was great fun and peppered with banter by the quiz master and others and also that it was great to realize how much you actually know although nobody was close to the number of Swedish islands at 240,000. Nevertheless, topics like 60s music, TV and Radio and General Knowledge were scored highly. Brain teasers in the coffee break also went down well. Our Christmas Quiz will take place at 2.00 on 12th December. No need to book, just turn up and hope to win the fantastic victors prize. The cost is £2 per person inclusive of tea/coffee and the meeting fee. (Please bring your own cup/mug to save us washing up – Thanks).

(Chris Penter)

THE GENTLEMENS BREAKFAST CLUB

This group meets at 9.00am on the first Monday in every month at ‘The Old Star’, Swanlow Lane. Our next meeting is scheduled for Monday 4th December. This is a convivial group who spend an hour or so chatting about everything under the sun whilst enjoying an excellent and reasonably priced breakfast. There is an extensive breakfast menu to choose from but if you are not hungry, tea and coffee are available in abundance. This activity is open to any male member of the U3A so just turn up. In addition to breakfast the usual £1 meeting fee applies. (Chris Penter)

CHRISTMAS PARTY

WEDNESDAY, 6TH DECEMBER 2023

7:30PM – 11:00PM

WAYS GREEN CONSERVATIVE CLUB

WAYS GREEN, WINSFORD CW7 4AN

BAR OPEN ‘TIL LATE SO GET YOUR DANCING SHOES ON AND JOIN THE FUN

ENGAGE YOUR BRAIN?

There are some very interesting courses on the Third Age Trust website this December, perfect for those days when it is too cold to go out. They are all free and only last an hour or so. Why not check them out?

Google : [Third Trust online Courses](#) and follow the link to [Learning Online](#)

Tuesday 5th Dec.10-11am

When art and Literature meet at Christmastide

Wednesday 6th Dec. 2-3pm

The Art of William Morris

Thursday 7th
Dec.10.30am-12noon

Live Cookery Demo -
Christmas Special

Monday 11th Dec.10-11.30am

Exploring World Faiths:
Christmas - How other faiths
other than Christians celebrate
Christmas

Wednesday 13th Dec.10-11am

Laughter Yoga - combining
hearty laughter exercises with
deep yoga-style breathing

Wednesday 13th Dec.2-4pm

Family History - Where all is
not as it seems

Friday 15th Dec.10-11.30am

Climate Change and the
Oceans

Thursday 4 Jan. 2024.
2-2.50pm

How to better insulate your
home



CHANGE OF COFFEE MORNING FROM JANUARY

Coffee mornings on the last Friday of the month at St Andrews have been quite an institution for some years. However, the venue and the timing pose us a few problems

1. The Keep Fit groups meet at the same time as the coffee mornings and can rarely attend them. This means they miss out on information about trips, easy booking arrangements and other activities as well as the chance to socialise with other members.
2. The introduction of the parking fines for people who forget to put their registration number into the iPad has led to some very unwelcome, unbudging penalty notices for our members. We would like to avoid that happening.
3. Arranging the heavy furniture before the meeting is proving more difficult as fewer people on the committee are fit enough to do this.
4. We have regular complaints that the acoustics in the hall are so poor that members can't hear each other speak without raising their voices. This increase in volume and the resultant echo further exacerbates the problem of not being able to hear.

For all of those reasons, the committee has decided to discontinue using St Andrew's.

Instead we will be moving our coffee mornings to an **afternoon**, not on the last Friday of the month but on the **3rd Wednesday** when no other groups meet.

Our new venue will be :

[Over United Reformed Church, 52, Swanlow Lane Winsford, CW7 1JE.](#)

There is lots of free, unlimited parking and the no 31 bus stops almost opposite at 16 minutes past every hour (check timetable)

There will also be a **new format**.

- Doors open at 2.00
- Important notices at 2.20
- Speaker at 2.30
- Refreshments at 3.15 – 4pm.
- Cost £2 to include session fee and refreshments.

The first meeting will be on Wednesday January 17th and topic is

The Gentle Art of Name Dropping

We hope you will appreciate our efforts to make our monthly meeting more comfortable, more inclusive and more entertaining. Please support us.



More
Afternoon
Tea Pictures



Don't Forget we have a Facebook Page!

Co-ordinators are welcome to post their news and announcements.

WEBSITE

<https://u3asites.org.uk/winsford>

CONTACT DETAILS

Newsletter and Facebook:

Sandy Wells : 07831 692539

sandy.wells1950@icloud.com

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FUTURE EVENTS

Christmas Tree Festival at St Chads

Once again we have entered a tree in this event,. Approx. 40 trees will be on display. There are also refreshments , craft stall and a raffle. Our Ukulele Group will also be there on 9 December at 2pm

Viewing Times : 2nd + 9th December - 11am-5pm

9th + 10th December -11.30am - 4pm

Halle Christmas Concert - 15 December

Coach travel included - Depart from Guildhall at 5.45pm

Grange Theatre Hartford ~ Goldilocks & The Three Bears ~ 30th December at 2pm

Free parking at the theatre.

ALL TICKETS NOW SOLD

Coach Holiday to Cheddar Gorge.~ April 2024

Contact Jules 07932 225242 for details

Kinky Boots Musical ~ 9 May 2024

Chester Story House . Contact Jules 07932 225242 for details

Also planned for 2024:

Pottery visit

Bunbury Mill

Coach trip to David Austin Roses /Cosford Air Museum

Picnic / Treasure Hunt

Southport Flower Show

Afternoon Tea

Christmas Shopping Event