



Editor's Message

It is now six months since I took over as Editor of the Newsletter. It has been a steep learning curve , and I'm probably still not there yet with this ever - evolving project.

The past year and going into the new year has seen a lot of changes happening within our u3a

- Several new groups
- A new venue for the Members Meeting
- A new format for the Members Meeting, incorporating a speaker each month
- The introduction of a Christmas Party which was so successful that another party is planned - watch out for news of that.
- The introduction of more trips and outings covering a range of interests and activities.

I have done my best to report all these things in the Newsletter, along with sharing news on our Facebook page , whilst trying to retain a format that is easy to read and not too long. I always welcome new ideas as well as critique - so please let me know what I am doing wrong , and what, hopefully, I'm doing right.

Group leaders - please let me know of anything you wish to be included in the Newsletter or Facebook Page . I can be contacted on : sandy.wells1950@icloud.com

I hope you enjoy reading this latest copy .

Sandy



GROUP NEWS

LUNCH GROUP

The February Lunch is on 8th February at the Plough at Whitegate - a popular local venue. The menu has to be pre-booked , so as always, please confirm your attendance with Marion and select your menu choices.

For the first time , there will also be a Sunday Lunch outing on 25th February to The Gate on Delamere Street, for a set Sunday Roast Lunch. Contact Marion for details . Places are limited .

LADIES BREAKFAST CLUB

The Ladies Breakfast Club is resuming on 5 February at 9.30am in Wetherspoons.

STROLLERS

Our next walk will be at Shakely Mere on Tuesday 6th February.

Please meet in the car park for 10.30 start.

The walk will be on made-up paths so should not be too muddy. If not too cold or wet bring a drink to enjoy after the walk .

Contact Sandy or Kay (01606 884247) for further information.

MORE GROUP NEWS

FAMILY HISTORY

The family history group were treated to a fascinating talk on elopement at their meeting in January. David Shaw, one of the group members, held our attention as he traced the history of elopement and marriage through the ages, peppering his lecture with amusing stories and strange facts. Did you know, for instance, that the Peak Forest was a place you could elope to in order to marry without parents' permission, just like at Gretna Green? We learned about uncles marrying nieces, forfeited inheritances and even murder. It is fair to say that we are all looking forward to next month when he presents a detailed case study. Thank you David. (Bev Penter)

WOMEN IN HISTORY

In February we will be looking at ordinary women who have been executed in Britain over the past few hundred years. We have baby farmers, murderers, bigamists, witches and even innocents to choose from. Who will we hear about? Come along and listen on Tuesday 20th February in Winsford library – session fee £2. If you would like to contribute and tell us about a woman who was executed, please contact Bev and she will happily put you on the list. (Bev Penter)

PLAY READING

What a great time we had at our last meeting, reading *An Inspector Calls* by J. B. Priestley. It didn't dawn on us till the end who, or what, Inspector Goole was! If you would like to join us, please get in touch with Bev Penter by February 13th so that a play with sufficient parts can be chosen for the meeting on the 27th February. (Bev Penter)

SCRABBLE

Do you enjoy word play ? We are a very small, friendly group who like a laugh as well as a game. Why not come and join us ? We meet in the Library Cafe Area the first and third Friday each month at 2pm. Session Fee £1(Sandy Wells)



NEW GROUPS

THE MAGIC OF MUSICALS

The good news is that this long promised new group is finally ready to get off the ground. We will meet on the 4th Tuesday of each month at Wharton Library starting on 27TH FEBRUARY.

The first two meetings will be at Wharton Library , then move to Winsford Library in April. The group will run from 1.30pm until 4.00pm. With a catalogue of over 500 musicals to choose from there will be something for everyone. The cost for each session is £2.00. To make the group viable we will need 12 or more people at each session. Therefore if you are interested and can attend the first session can you please e-mail me.

At each session we will watch a full stage or film musical. Look forward to hearing from you.

(Chris Penter)

SEATED PILATES

The Seated Pilates group will also be starting soon. Please check your emails – especially your spam or junk files, as sometimes messages sent through our Beacon system go straight to that place and not in your inbox. (Bev Penter)

SAVE THE DATE

By popular demand, we will be holding a Welcome Summer Party on June 19th at Ways Green Conservative Club with music, dancing, food etc. Please save the date in your diaries. More details to follow.

DEC PANTO REVIEW

On 30 December, 15 of our members went to Grange Theatre, Hartord, for an afternoon performance of *Goldilocks and the Three Bears*.

If we had been hoping for an afternoon of silliness and nonsense then we were not disappointed. Lots of song and dance numbers, supported by pupils from local dance schools, spectacular costumes and an enthusiastic *Silly Billy* who kept things moving along with lots of audience participation.

A warm and comfortable theatre, delicious ice-creams and lots of laughter, what could be better on a cold, dismal December afternoon. (Kay Stanley)

MEMBERS MEETINGS



The new Members' Meeting in January was well attended and we were entertained by an interesting talk by one of our members, Chris Penter, on "The Gentle Art of Name Dropping". Not only did we hear anecdotes about famous actors Chris had met and worked with but we also learned about theatrical traditions such as the ghost light and the derivation of the phrase "break a leg". Thank you, Chris.

Please note, for our next meeting on 21st February we would ask members ask to give in their names as they first enter and pay the session fee of £2 before taking a seat.

FEBRUARY MEETING

Philip Caine : Author / Public Speaker.

Talk Synopsis:

BARROW TO BAGHDAD & BACK AGAIN

(My career story)

My talk begins with me leaving school . . .

I talk about how my career began as a chef and hotel manager.

My 17 years working the oil rigs in the North Sea.

Followed by operating projects in Algeria & Nigeria..

My time in Kazakhstan & Russia was particularly exciting.

Not to mention the most dangerous place of all . . . Baghdad.

My career culminated in Dubai where I ran an oil services company.

The talk is full of interest, anecdotes, humour, and inspiration.

I conclude with the writing of my latest novel (currently number 10)

Running time approx. 45 minutes (ex Q&A)

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I have undertaken over 500 speaking engagements since 2015, all of which have been well attended and received. I have been guest speaker to groups such as the WI, the U3A, Inner Wheel, Rotary. Round Table, Probus etc.

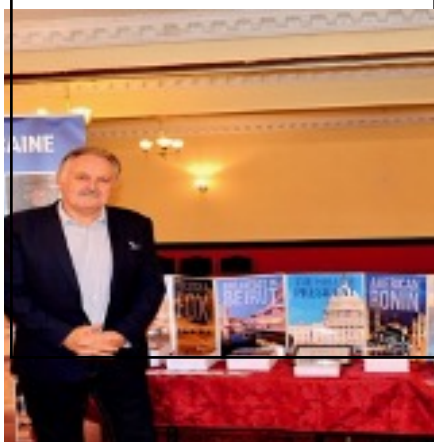
u3a learn,
laugh,
live

* * *



PHILIP CAINE: Author, Speaker, Raconteur

Author of the JACK CASTLE and Shackleton Blister series of adventure novels. Born in 1950, in Barrow-in-Furness Philip's working life began in the hotel business. His career developed in the oil industry and 30 years were spent in places such as the North Sea, Algeria, Nigeria, Kazakhstan and Russia. From 2003, he spent 7 years in post war Baghdad working with the American coalition and a further 3 years running oil services companies in Dubai. He retired in 2015 and began WRITING & PUBLIC SPEAKING, since then he has spoken at over 500 venues all over the UK and written 9 adventure thrillers. All Philip's books are available in Paperback, eBook and Audio format.
www.philipcaine.com



Winsford u3a is on :

[**FACEBOOK**](#)

[**WEBSITE**](#)

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

[**CONTACT DETAILS**](#)

Newsletter and Facebook:

Sandy Wells : 07831 692539

FUTURE EVENTS

Trip to Wedgewood ~February 29th

We have 2 seats available on this trip which includes a factory tour where we can watch various items being produced. Travel is by coach from Winsford, cost £37 including £1 session fee.

There is also the opportunity to visit the impressive Wedgewood Museum and there are various shopping outlets as well as a pleasant café for lunch or snacks.

It is possible to borrow a wheelchair but this needs to be booked in advance, free of charge.

If you are interested please contact Steph or Kay (01606 884247).

Coach Holiday to Cheddar Gorge.~ April 2024

Payment due February. Jules will email all the travellers with details

Kinky Boots Musical ~ 9 May 2024

Chester Story House . Contact Jules 07932 225242 for details

Bizet's Carmen, Stoke Regent Theatre ~9th April 2024 7.30pm, Travel by coach

Award winning Ellen Kent production featuring the Ukrainian Opera and Ballet Theatre Kyiv with international soloist, highly praised chorus and full orchestra.

This dazzling production with orchestra features **Bizet's** unforgettable melodies including *The Toreador's Song*, Carmen's enticing *Habanera*, and Don José's lyrical *Flower Song* in a setting evoking the stunning architecture of Seville and its main square with Roman and Moorish influences.

Sung in French with English subtitles.

Tickets which include coach travel and session fee £53.25.

Please contact me as soon as possible at juliej_higgins@hotmail.com or 07932 225242. Seats on a first come basis.