

# NW U3A NEWS

Issue No. 7 May 2010

## 1. From the NW Trustee

Dear Colleague,

I have now attended my second bi-monthly NEC meeting in the usual venue not far from Euston Station which is very accessible for me and others near the main rail lines. This was the first of a new series of 2 day meetings and lasted around 12 hours almost all of which was pretty intense discussions where one had to concentrate all the time. (One needs stamina for the NEC!) I am also on the Standing Committee on Education so its back to London again next week but only one day this time – although it looks like a long one as a small group of us are meeting afterwards to plan a questionnaire which NEC intends to send to all U3A asking about your wishes for our future. I found the TAT meeting very interesting and it covered a long agenda efficiently with only a few exceptions. If you want to keep in touch with what the NEC is discussing, full minutes are published (subsequent to approval – which means they are a bit dated) on the National U3A website. Most meetings are dominated by work-in-hand and so one keeps abreast of a vast range of topics. One regular feature is reports from each of the regional trustees and these are fascinating both in the variety of approaches to collaborations within the regions and in enabling us to pick up good ideas from each other. These had tended to be squeezed out previously with one day meetings and are very valuable.

In the last month I have been getting around the region and attended our NW Easter School (report below), a NW Regional Committee meeting, two network meetings (Lancashire Link and Merseyside). I hope both networks will increase their activities and I am hoping to be invited to other networks. Please keep in touch with me. Email and phone are much the most efficient methods. I visited the new Heswall U3A to present their Membership Certificate. David Starling joined me and we found a lively well attended Monthly Meeting whose size would be regarded as splendid by many U3As who have been in existence for years. I now have two more similar visits to make soon. I am also always happy to discuss matters with individual U3As directly.

It is very important that I and NWREC generally be able to contact all NW U3As quickly at need. To this end will all NW U3As please supply me with a contact email that we can use and keep this updated.

John Ellison [j.ellison521@btinternet.com](mailto:j.ellison521@btinternet.com) 01524 733400 15<sup>th</sup> May 2010

## 2. News from NWREC

Kathleen Mercier visited Upholland U3A on 10<sup>th</sup> May for the start of their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday celebrations. Each group had provided excellent displays of their work. The town cryer read a proclamation and the mayor of West Lancashire, Counsellor Roberts, congratulated them on their birthday and said how splendid it was that they had grown to a membership of 500 in only 5 years.

The North West Regional Executive Committee wishes to build on the success of this first year by seeking to provide appropriate and useful support for learning in North West U3As. To this end the NWREC will be asking the membership what it wants and would use. Our intention is to present a long term plan to the AGM of the North West Region of U3As in May 2011.

Our finances are now in a healthy state and our reserves are appropriate for an organisation of our size. We are supported by TAT for a representative AGM and for a representative one day conference along with the necessary organisational costs. Of course events such as the residential school are and must

remain self funding. Assuming the situation does not change we are confident that a membership subscription for the NW region of U3As will not be needed.

We considered our NW Development Team whose role is to help with any aspect of setting up new U3As and helping existing ones. There is a need for an absolute minimum of 8/9 volunteers spread geographically to be part of the support for the NW Trustee, NWREC and the national EDOs. Out of pocket expenses are available. Could people who might be interested please contact John Ellison 01524 733400 or Kathleen Mercier 0151 652 0808. We currently have only about 1/3 of the minimum number of people needed. Do not be put off, the roles need not be too onerous and can be tailored to individuals.

### 3. Reports on Past Events

**MYERSCOUGH RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL** 7<sup>th</sup>-10<sup>th</sup> April 2010. about 90 people were involved and the arrangements went very well. The assessment forms were almost all returned and virtually all were highly favourable to the venue and arrangements. The reports on Tutors were in the main highly favourable and we are most grateful for their enormous efforts. Of course we learned lots of things we can improve for next year (see section 5 below). There are more details on the NW U3A website which will be updated as soon as possible with some pictures.

### 4. NEWS on Future Events

**AGM AND SPECIAL LECTURE BY DR JOHN PRAG** - 25<sup>th</sup> May 2010.

Full details were given in newsletter No 5 and an application form can also be downloaded from our website. Our contact is Trevor Cheetham, 40 Boat Lane Court, Brett Street, Northenden, Manchester, M22 4EZ. [t.cheetham2@btinternet.com](mailto:t.cheetham2@btinternet.com). PLEASE remember we need to know who is coming so you must register with Trevor.

**ENERGY DAY at PRESTON (St Cuthbert's Fulwood)** - 7<sup>th</sup> July 2010.

Applications are coming in nicely and the flier is appendix 1 of this newsletter and is on the NW region website. Please apply as soon as possible through our Treasurer. Please include a cheque for £10 payable to NW region of U3As. This will include refreshments and a buffet Lunch. We will welcome participants from all U3As both in the NW or elsewhere. Please get applications in as soon as possible.

### SEMINAR DAY ON RUNNING YOUR U3A

This is now well advanced and applications are invited. Details are given in a flier which is appendix 2 to this Newsletter. It will take place on 29<sup>th</sup> October 2010 at St Cuthberts Church Centre, Fulwood, Preston.

### 5. Advanced Notice of Planned Events

**RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL MYERSCOUGH EASTER 2011**

We have now fixed the basic structure of our 2<sup>nd</sup> Residential School. The only time slot available is 26<sup>th</sup> to 28<sup>th</sup> April 2011. We have several improvements including the evening meal being later, a quicker start-up and, as the last day is not at a weekend, a fuller last day. These will partially compensate for there being only 2 nights available compared with 3 this year.

### 6. Notices about Events from Individual U3As and Networks

We are happy to include pieces on Network Activities or items from U3As which are relevant to other local U3As. This is for future events that are available for members of NW U3As. Please send by email to [j.ellison521@btinternet.com](mailto:j.ellison521@btinternet.com). We do not have fixed publication dates for newsletters so send items as soon as possible. They can also go on our website. In all cases the editors reserve the right to omit or edit items submitted. As always 'the editors decision is final'!

## PENRITH & NORTH LAKES U3A

### STUDY DAYS

#### RUSSIA: ROMANOV AND REVOLUTIONARIES

Politics, society and culture before, through and beyond 1917 all feature under this title. Four members of Penrith and North Lakes U3A will lead study of this topic on Mondays 29th November 2010 and 31st January 2011 (10.30am - 4.15pm), £5 each day, venue close to railway station and M6. For full details, which will be sent out in early September, phone or email your name and postal address to Robin Acland: [rtacland@googlemail.com](mailto:rtacland@googlemail.com), 017687 79672.

## CHESTER U3A - VISIT

### DERBYSHIRE & NOTTINGHAMSHIRE

From the 10th until the 14th June. Chester U3A have some places left at a cost of £275.00 half board with transport from Chester. We plan to visit Nottingham, Bolsover Castle, Kedleston Hall, Crich Tramway Museum and Bakewell and Buxton on the way home. If anyone is interested could they contact Mrs Mary Vives on 01244 314297.

## LANCASTER & MORECAMBE U3A - THEATRE TRIP

### GLOBE THEATRE, LONDON

17th to 20th September 2010

Shakespeare's Henry IV part 1 on Saturday 18th (7.30) and part 2 on Sunday 19th (6.30).

Travelling with Reeves Coaches. Travelling down on the Friday. (We hope to arrange reasonable pick-up points.) All day Saturday free, then the evening performance at 7.30. Sunday free with evening performance at 6.30. Returning home Monday. Transfers from the hotel to The Globe and return after the performance. Day transfers into London. **Staying at The Hilton London Metropole.** Bed and English breakfast double and twin rooms. Single room supplement £118.50 - advisable to share. NB The Globe is partially open to the elements so maybe thermals and waterproofs would be useful. ***This is a special opportunity to see these two plays performed at The Globe - might have happened this way in Shakespeare's time.*** There are some places available for those not wishing to see the plays.

The cost for theatre, coach and accommodation will be £280pp. Coach and accomodation only £220pp. Deposit £100 asap, final payment by 20th July. Please send to Dorothy Swarbrick, 3 Meadow Park, Cabus, Preston PR3 1TA or phone 01995 606029 if any questions. Cheques payable to Lancaster and Morecambe U3A No 2 A/C

## PRESTON FORUM (LLL and U3A) - TALK

TIME by Frank Gibson at Preston UCLAN Friday 25<sup>th</sup> June at 1.30.

More information and application form from Harold Potts, Room H17 Harris Building, UCLAN, Preston PR1 2HE. 01772 892469



APPENDIX 1

## NORTH WEST REGION STUDY DAY ON ENERGY

7<sup>th</sup> July 2010 from 12.30 to 17.30(approx)  
at St Cuthbert's Church Centre, Lytham Road, Fulwood, Preston.

### Speakers

Prof Max Irvine (lately Vice Chancellor of Birmingham University and lead author of a report to Royal Society of Edinburgh on Scotlands Energy Needs)

Prof Christopher Whitehead (Head of the School of Chemistry at Manchester University and an expert on the the production of Hydrogen)

Dr John Bissell (Consultant to The Manufacturing Institute in Manchester and an expert on Nuclear Power)

Overall we will cover all the main options for power generation available in the foreseeable future including considerations of their practicality and the importance of an appropriate mix. Final details will be available later.

The first talk will start at 12.30 and will be followed by a buffet lunch. We expect two more talks followed by refreshments. The day will finish with a panel discussion of the issues raised.

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**APPLICATION FORM**

for NW Study Day on Energy

NAME

U3A

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Address

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Post Code

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Email

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Phone

If this application is for more than one person please give the names of other participants below. Please return this form as soon as possible since the study day may be very popular. Include cheques for £10 per person payable to NW Region of U3As and sent to Mrs J. Anderson, 113 Brook Lane, Timperley, Altrincham, WA15 6RT.



APPENDIX 2

**NORTH WEST REGION**  
**SEMINAR DAY – RUNNING YOUR U3A**  
29<sup>th</sup> October 2010 from 10.30 to 16.30(approx)  
at St Cuthbert's Church Centre, Lytham Road, Fulwood, Preston.

There will be the five subject areas listed below (some of which will be run twice depending on take-up) and each participant will attend three. At this stage the exact details are still being finalised so the details below may change somewhat. The day will be arranged so that each subject lasts for approximately 90min. Each group will have short introduction(s) followed by discussions. Facilitators will all be U3A members with experience in the field being discussed and include Mike Long the National Education and Development Officer, and John Ellison, Kathleen Mercier, Meg Shaw, David Starling, Sue Watkinson and others from North West U3As.

1. **Group Leaders** - finding & supporting group leaders, sustaining the group, and examining suitable ways of sharing learning.
2. **Technology** - sound systems, digital projection (for DVD, PCs, document readers etc), and building a website.
3. **Finance** – sources of funding, registering as a charity (when and how), reserves, drawing up reports, examiners for accounts.
4. **Committees** - efficient running of committees, taking into account the specific nature of U3A committees and that committees are made up of individuals.
5. **Communications** – promoting your U3A, internal communications, relations with external bodies, newsletters and diaries.

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APPLICATION FORM for NW Seminar Day at Preston to be returned by 1 Sept 2010

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ U3A \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_

Post Code \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

I wish to attend the following options. RING the **three** you want to attend. If you are not too concerned please make this clear by ringing more than three and ranking them in order. This would help us as it may not be possible to arrange every combination.

- 1 Group Leaders      2. Technology      3. Finance      4. Committees      5 Communications

Please use a separate application form for each person. Please return this form as soon as possible since we need to schedule the details. Later applicants may not get as wide a choice of options. Include cheques for £8 per person payable to NW Region of U3As and sent to David Starling, 18 Davenport Rd., Heswall, CH60 9LF.