

NW U3A NEWS

Issue No. 16 December 2011

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1. From the NW Trustee

Dear NW U3A Member,

We have continued our developments of new U3As in the NW and are currently the leading Region for new U3As this year. Welcome to all our new U3As and indeed to new U3A members everywhere.

There has been quite a few developments recently. Locally in the NW we have now fixed the following.

1. The details of the Science Day on 6th March
2. There is a session on running your U3A on the Wirral on 9th March which is based on that in Manchester in November 2011 which was greatly applauded by the participants.
3. We still have some vacancies at the Myerscough Easter School
4. Details of the 2012 Distinguished Lecture and our AGM

More details of each of these events and of others being offered are given below

We are anxious to encourage participation in organising activities in the NW and to this end

1. we would like to hear from people who would like to consider volunteering to join the NW Regional Executive Committee with a view to their attending the during before the May AGM| as observers so as to get a feeling of what is involve and
2. we need a volunteer to organise a Residential School in 2013 with the date and location still flexible but planning needs to start now.

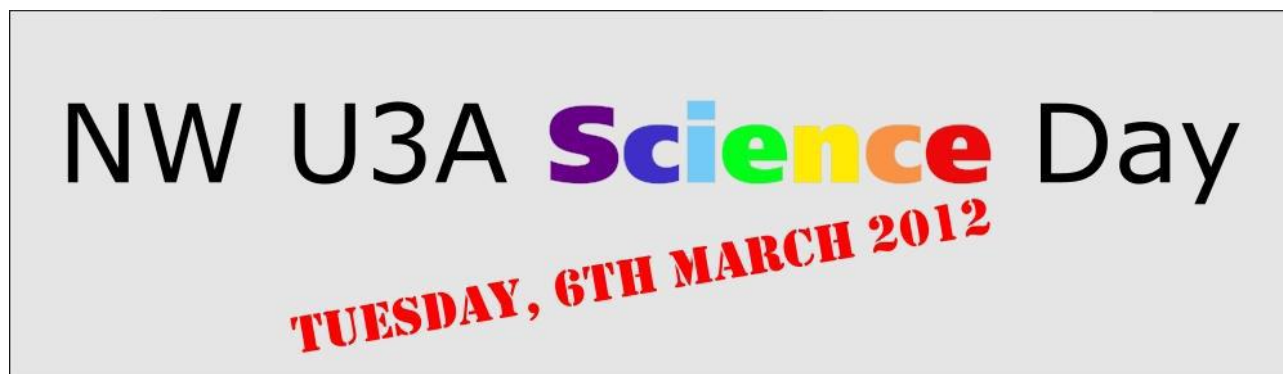
If you are interested in either or both of these jobs, please let me or another member of NWREC know.

Nationally a new structure of sub-committees of the NEC is bedding down and looks as if it will improve the NEC's efficiency because more fully researched proposals should come forward to the NEC. More long term planning is also envisaged within the constraints of the current capitation fee which we are determined to avoid increasing any time soon. The new Acting Treasurer of the Trust who started in September has resigned because she felt unable to go along with the views of the other Trustees on policy matters and so the system provisionally agreed in the Summer when it looked as if there was not going to be a volunteer as Treasurer has been put in place and the role effectively divided between a consultant, David Wilson who was appointed almost a year ago, and the members of the Budget and Finance Committee which I chair. We believe this will work satisfactorily. We are currently doing the budget for 2012/13 and if anybody knows of activities that they think should be funded either directly by the Trust or through the NW Regional Treasurer, please let us have details in the next 2 or 3 weeks by contacting me.

Best wishes for the New Year

John Ellison – NW Regional Trustee j.ellison521@btinternet.com 01524
733400 31st December 2011

2. NW U3A Science Day



All members of North West U3As are invited to attend the **NW U3A Science Day** on Tuesday, 6th March 2012 at West Lancs Investment Centre, Maple View, White Moss Business Park, Skelmersdale, WN8 9TG.

This is an **all-day** event, with the theme of “**Science in the Northwest – past, present and future**”. The North West of England has been a major contributor to science and technology: its major universities have produced Nobel Prize winning scientists, and its industry, from the early days of the industrial revolution to its current strengths in aerospace, nuclear and the chemical industries, has been a major developer of technology.

Four illustrious speakers from the region will explore this theme, highlighting past contributions, current developments and future possibilities. More details at <https://u3scienceday.wordpress.com/>.

This is a unique opportunity to gain an appreciation of our scientific heritage in the North West – book now to secure your place!

PLEASE return your form and cheque to **arrive by Monday 13th February 2012**

.....

I would like to attend the NW U3A Science Day on **Tuesday 6 March 2012** to be held at West Lancs Investment Centre, Skelmersdale, WN8 9TG.

Name

Address

Phone number

Email

I am a member of -

U3A

I enclose a **cheque for £18.00**, made payable to **North West Region of U3As (NW Region of U3As)**

Signed

Please return the booking slip and cheque to:

Mrs Sue Watkinson, 12 Church Lane, Aughton, ORMSKIRK, Lancs, L39 6SB

Telephone 01695 422 423

Email: wandsw@uk2.net

3. **NW Symposium on aspects of Running U3As**

There will be four parallel sessions for **chairpersons, secretaries, interest groups co-ordinators, and treasurers** or those who want to know more about these roles. It is a chance to share experience and also to identify future needs. Sessions will be facilitated by members of NWREC. The event will be similar in structure to the morning event held in Manchester in November 2011 and will take place in Heswall Hall, Heswall, Wirral in the morning of **9th March 2012** starting at 9.30. There is no fee and coffee and biscuits will be served. It is being organised by the Deeside and Wirral Network on behalf of the NW Region. We all hope for a big attendance with people from most local U3As attending. It will also be open to members from farther afield although some priority will be given to those from more local U3As if the event is over-subscribed.

Application Form to be returned asap

Name U3A.....

Address

Post Code

Telephone

Email

Please use a separate application form for each person & indicate the group that you wish to join – chairpersons or secretaries or groups co-ordinators or treasurers.

Send to – Jenny Carley,

NOTE MORE INFO IN A FEW DAYS

4. Myerscough Easter School

UPDATE

NORTH WEST REGION

Residential School Tuesday 3rd – Thursday 5th April 2012

Myerscough College, Bilborrow, Preston

The North West Region of U3As is holding a residential school from Tuesday 3rd to Thursday 5th of April 2012. The cost will be **£185** for residential students or £145 for day students (including coffees, lunches and teas). Most courses have limits on the number of participants and some are nearly full now. Allocation will be on a first come first served basis. The venue as in previous years will be Myerscough College, Bilborrow, just off the A6 between Preston and Garstang. The residential blocks are situated adjacent to a car park but are a 200 metre walk from the dining room, lecture theatre and study rooms. Completed application forms, together with a non-returnable deposit cheque for £40.00 made payable to “NW Region of U3As” should be sent to “The Chairman NW Region of U3As, 18 Davenport Road, Heswall, Wirral. CH60 9LF”. Queries to davidstarling@fastmail.fm or 0151 342 6077.

The following courses will be offered:-

Archaeology – The course will explore the archaeology of Britain from the early Neolithic to the later Bronze Age. It will be suitable for both beginners and those with some knowledge of the period. The evidence of early settlements and burials will be summarised by discussing excavations in various parts of Britain, including Wiltshire, Orkney and Dartmoor. We shall build further on this by looking at detailed aspects of life, trade and warfare in prehistoric times. The emergence of complex social networks around the working of bronze and gold will be discussed.

Tutor Carol Allen

Creative Writing – New writer or old hand? Wanting a nudge? Scared to begin?

Come along and experiment with new plots, new styles and new companions. Above all, come and enjoy writing. All you need are paper, pen and enthusiasm. We will work in large and small groups and alone, sharing ideas, writing, gaining helpful feedback and reading aloud. Feel free to bring any books you have found useful.

Tutor Maggie Smith

Geology – The Lake District is a glacial-eroded anticline with intensely folded rocks of Ordovician/Silurian age in the centre, surrounded by flat-lying Carboniferous limestones and Permo-Triassic sandstones. We shall concentrate on the eastern edge of the National Park, visiting the Penrith-Shap area to investigate the forces and processes which formed the slates north of Kendal, the Shap Granite, the unconformity beneath the limestones at Shap Wells Hotel and the red, desert sandstones near Penrith. The full day field trip will be supported by indoor slide presentations and practical sessions, using rock and mineral specimens and geological maps, to build up a geological history of the Penrith-Shap area. **Tutor Chris Arkwright**

An Introduction to Ancient Egypt

This course is intended for anyone interested in Egypt in the time of the pharaohs. It is an

introductory course and no prior knowledge is required. Topics covered will include:- a timeline of ancient Egyptian kingdoms & dynasties; tombs & temples; pottery & jewellery; handling precious artefacts; an introduction to hieroglyphs and visiting Egypt - where to go and what to see.

Tutors Neil Stevenson and David Poyntz

Novelists and Philosophers

The group will explore the relationship between the philosophy and the fiction of philosophers who are also novelists, and focus on the work of Iris Murdoch and Jean-Paul Sartre. It will be a mix of presentation and discussion. The course will appeal to those who enjoy fiction. No experience in philosophy will be assumed. It is suitable for all. Beginners are welcome, though previous experience will be welcomed also.

Preparatory reading:

‘Under the Net’ Iris Murdoch 1954 + any other novel by iris Murdoch

‘Nausea’ Jean-Paul Sartre 1938 + any other fiction or drama by Sartre

‘Metaphysics a Guide to Morals’ Iris Murdoch 1992 (not an easy read but please dip into it)

‘Sartre, Romantic Rationalist’ Iris Murdoch 1953

Tutor Meg Shaw

Sixty years of science

Over the last sixty years there have been many major discoveries in the physical sciences. Many of these have led to or look likely to lead to major technological applications. The course, which will be suitable for interested amateurs, will take examples of such discoveries and consider both the underlying scientific advance and the way in which it has then been developed and applied. Most have been recognised by Nobel Prizes. The topics covered will include: a) lasers, leading to their current proliferation in size and application; b) transistors and integrated circuits leading to both computers and precision clocks, GPS and length measurement systems and c) exotic structures such as fullerenes, carbon nano-tubes and grapheme, leading to new materials. No prior knowledge of the individual topics will be assumed and there will be plenty of time for questions and discussion.

Tutors John Ellison, Tony Kelly, Derek Melliush

APPLICATION FORM

NW U3A RESIDENTIAL SCHOOL

Tuesday 3rd to Thursday 5th April 2012

AT MYERSCOUGH COLLEGE

Bilsborrow, Preston, Lancashire, PR3 0RY

Please return this completed form NOW IF AT ALL POSSIBLE, giving your preferred course (at least both first and second preferences please as some courses are almost full) together with a cheque for a non-returnable deposit of £40 payable to 'NW Region of U3As and send it to:

Chair NW Region of U3As, 18, Davenport Road, Heswall, Wirral. CH60 9LF.

Queries to: davidstarling@fastmail.fm or 0151 342 6077

Name:

U3A:

Address:

Post code:

E-mail address (**please print**):

Do you have any special dietary requirements?

Do you want overnight accommodation or only meals (excluding breakfast)?

Any preference for accommodation (eg ground floor required)

PLEASE REMEMBER THAT YOU NEED TO BRING YOUR OWN TOWEL.

Preferred courses (please indicate preference by number)

Archaeology		Creative Writing		Geology	
Sixty years of science		An Introduction to Ancient Egypt		Novelists and Philosophers	

All courses have limits on the number of participants.

5. Distinguished Lecture and NW Region AGM at Preston.

NW REGION OF U3As

All members of North West U3As are invited to attend our 3rd annual lecture commencing at 2:00pm on Friday 18th May 2012 at The University of Central Lancashire, Greenbank Lecture Theatre, Victoria Street, Preston. Members of U3As outside the NW are also welcome, although initially priority will be given to NW members.

We welcome distinguished speaker Bill Tidy. Phenomenally talented and widely respected as cartoonist, writer, TV and radio presenter and speaker, Bill Tidy delivers a unique presentation which incorporates his wit, expertise and indomitable style in every sense of the word.



Bill became well known for his strip cartoons, particularly "The Cloggies", which ran in Private Eye from 1967 to 1981 and the Listener from 1985 to 1986. Then there was "The Fosdyke Saga", which began in the Daily Mirror in 1971.

Writer of more than 20 books and illustrator of over 70; 'The World's Worst Golf Club', his autobiography 'Is There Any News Of The Iceberg?', 'Bill Tidy's Book Of Quotations', 'Disgraceful Archaeology' with Dr. Paul Bahn and most recently, 'The Greatest Cricketer Of Them All', volume one of a series of Sporting Legends. Bill also writes and illustrates children's books.

Bill has appeared on many TV and Radio shows including 'Countdown', 'Watercolour Challenge' & 'Collector's Lot' (C4), 'Through The Keyhole' (twice!) & Alphabet Game (BBC) 'Open House' (C5) & "Sorry I Haven't A Clue" (R4). He wrote and presented 'Tidy Up Walsall', 'Tidy Up Naples' 'Three Days Last Summer' and 'Draw Me', a 13 part children's tv series. Has guest presented; 'Food File' (C4), 'Countryfile' (BBC) and 'SKY Sports' Saturday morning show. He has also been a recipient of 'This Is Your Life'.

Coffee/tea will be available after the talk, which will be followed by the Annual General Meeting of the North West Region of U3As. Everyone is welcome to attend the AGM but only nominated representatives of each individual U3A in the North West Region may vote. The agenda will be posted later, but please apply now (see form below). Formal notice of the AGM is now given. Resolutions and Nominations for committee posts must reach the Secretary of the NW Regional Committee - Neil Stevenson, 3, Dalecrest, Billinge, Wigan WN5 7JZ ndstevenson@hotmail.com by mid April 2012



APPLICATION FORM FOR LECTURE AND AGM

I would like to attend the Lecture on Friday 18th May 2012 at UCLAN, Greenbank Lecture Theatre, Victoria Street , Preston starting at 2.00 p.m.

Name:

.....

Address:

.....

Phone Number

Email

I am a member of U3A

I enclose my cheque for £5, made payable to “North West Region of U3As”

Signed

Please indicate if you plan to attend the AGM that follows the lecture yes / no

If you wish to attend the AGM but not the lecture, please let us know (email is fine). The AGM is free.

Please return this booking slip and cheque to:

Neil Stevenson, 3 Dalecrest, Billinge, Wigan, Lancashire WN5 7JZ
(Telephone 01744 895723, email ndstevenson@hotmail.com)

6. Waterways Event.

A ‘Waterways’ event hosted by Deeside and Wirral U3A Network – Advance Notice
The Third Age Trust has chosen the theme ‘Waterways’ to celebrate the Olympics in 2012. Deeside and Wirral U3A Network comprising the twelve U3A’s of Bebington, Bromborough, Cestrian, Chester, Hoylake and West Kirby, Ellesmere Port, Heswall, Neston, Oxton and Prenton, Wallasey, Wirral and Wirral Hundred will be holding their first ‘Study Day’ on May 25th 2012 at Ellesmere Boat Museum, Ellesmere Port. CH65 4FW web site www.ellesmereport@thewaterwaystrust.org.uk

The Network will be commissioning the whole of the museum for this event and would like to invite U3A members of the NW Region to join us in this celebration.

What's going to be there

- Demonstrations of many crafts including lace making, rag-rug making and traditional 'Roses and Castles' painting
- Activities such as canal trips, craft workshops, museum tours and singing sea shanties
- A selection of lectures based on a 'Water Theme'
- Food will not be provided but there is a café, a mobile BBQ, an ice cream bicycle and, depending on numbers other mobile food vans. Of course you will be able to BYO and sit by the waterside, hopefully in sunshine. If the sun does not shine there are plenty of indoor areas

If you are travelling a distance you may like to investigate a sleep over at the adjoining 'Holiday Inn'. It's all very exciting! The cost? £10 for the day – What a bargain!

The next NW Region news letter will contain an application form which will allow you to choose from the many activities.

Further details from Jenny Carley, e-mail jenny.carley@talktalk.net

7. Holidays with a purpose from Lancaster and Morecambe U3A

No 1 NW HIGHLANDS OF SCOTLAND 12 to 18 April 2012

This Lancaster and Morecambe U3A trip is by train to Inverness and we stay at the Royal Highland Hotel at Inverness (next to the rail station) for 6 nights. On the 5 days out available we have one day free and on the other 4 days hire a small coach (not minibus) in Inverness to go out for a day to each of Skye, Torridon, Knockan Cliff (with its world famous geological visitor centre) and the Lochinver areas. No significant walking is involved but there will be plenty of time to view the outstanding views and discuss the unique geology. This was the part of the world where some of the earliest Geological studies were made and we shall see some of the oldest rocks on the earth's surface as well as more recent igneous ones.

As the coach hire from Inverness costs the same whatever number we get the total cost will depend on numbers, but provided we get a total of about 16 will come out at well under £500pp including accommodation (in twin/double), dinner, breakfast, coach hire from Inverness, and train travel from NW England (provided you book your train at earliest possible date). There is likely to be a single supplement. A non-returnable deposit of £100 will be needed to cover coach hire. The train times are civilised and only one change is needed each way if you start at one of the main stations on the west coast main line.

Places limited - contact John Ellison for more information on 01524 733400 or email

j.ellison521@btinternet.com IMMEDIATELY as an hotel booking is urgent and we need to know numbers to assess final cost per person.

No 2 **HISTORIC ORKNEY - TOUR 27 JUNE TO 3 JULY 2012**

This tour will be with Reeves Coaches and is being run exclusively for Lancaster and Morecambe U3A. Archaeologist and U3A member Carol Allen will lead the party around the sites. Carol, a professional archaeologist before she retired, has visited Orkney regularly for the last twenty years.

The tour will leave the Holiday Inn just off the M6 at Lancaster at 8.30 am on Wednesday 27 June and travel to an overnight stop at Nairn. We shall then move onto Thurso and Scrabster for the ferry to Stromness about 1.15 pm passing the Old Man of Hoy. On Orkney we shall stay at the Ayre Hotel in Kirkwall and will visit the World Heritage sites of the Stones of Stenness, Ring of Brodgar, Skara Brae, Tomb of the Eagles, Maes Howe and many other unique historic locations. We return to the mainland by the late afternoon ferry on 2 July staying the night at Nairn and arrive in Lancaster about 5.30 pm on Tuesday 3 July.

The cost includes all transport from Lancaster to Orkney, ferry, accommodation and breakfast and dinner but not lunch. Entrances are extra but should not exceed £25. The total cost is £725 for a person sharing (single supplement £135). Only a very few places are now free so apply immediately. For the full itinerary, application form and any further information please contact Carol Allen, 2 Sand Lane, Warton, Carnforth, LA5 9NN, tel 01524 733606, or allen.hillview@sb-computers.co.uk.

8. Course by Penrith and North Lakes U3A

FROM ERIK TO IKEA -- SCANDINAVIAN WAVES

Penrith and North Lakes U3A warmly invite expressions of interest in attending this programme; firm commitment at this juncture is not required. Either email rtacland@googlemail.com or send a stamped addressed envelope to Robin Acland, Chapelside, Mungrisdale, Penrith CA11 0XR. You will then receive full details when available, probably in early February 2012.

Here is the essential outline:

Dates/times: Thursday 29th March, 10.30-4.15; Saturday 31st March, 10.00-1.00; Wednesday 18th April, 10.30-4.15; Saturday 21st April, 10.00-1.00.

Programme: wide-ranging historical and cultural, roughly chronological, talks, pictures, music, texts

Providers: U3A members Robin Acland, Angela Davies, Mike Fossey and Joan McMurtry

Venues/costs: all in Penrith, full days £5, Saturdays £2, come to all or any, no commitment, pay at the door

Queries at this stage: Robin, as above, or on 017687 79672