



# NESTON



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## NEWSLETTER

Issue No. 14

NOVEMBER 2011

### FROM THE CHAIRMAN

DEAR FRIENDS,

By the time you read this it will be the end of October and Christmas will be coming ever closer! We have been so lucky here with the weather and it is hard to think that Winter is just around the corner with those cold days and long dark nights. This is where those friends made at Neston U3A come into their own isn't it? Company and friendship can help us through the dark times so please make an effort to come along to the monthly meetings for a chance to make new friends, enjoy a cup of tea (or coffee!) and listen to an interesting speaker...not bad value for £1 a session!

Our interest groups, which are the life blood of any U3A, are another way of making new friends whilst sharing a common interest. They continue to be popular and most have spaces. Remember if you have a particular interest that isn't being catered for at the moment we can, with your help start up a new group! Unfortunately Mary Williams, our Interest Groups Coordinator and committee member has had to resign due to commitments. I wish to thank her, on your behalf, for a job well done. This means that we are looking for someone to take over her role. The committee thought that to make it easier perhaps two friends would consider taking on the role...or even a husband and wife team! You wouldn't have to be part of the committee but you would be most welcome if you could join us ( we only meet once a month). We have over 320 members and a committee of only 11 so please consider whether you could help us out. In the meantime please ring me if there are any issues concerning the interest groups.

Sheila John has now handed the reigns of our web site over to Paul Flanagan so if you have any comments/photos or articles that you think might be of use to the wider circle please send them to Paul. Thanks again to Sheila for setting up the website. If you have access to a computer

Continued overleaf

# NW Region Events

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please remember to check out our website as you can get lots of info from it about Neston U3A and beyond to the wider U3A movement.

Following the success of the Art Exhibition at Ness Gardens in June, the network is trying to arrange an event at The Boat Museum at Ellesmere Port to celebrate the Olympics next Summer. We are looking for a volunteer to be on the Steering committee so please consider helping and let me know if you are interested.

Keep healthy and active!

Best wishes

Jan Reddy  
0151 336 5674

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## U3A North West Region

The following events have been organised by our region for you to enjoy.

### **Myerscough Residential School (near Preston)**

**VENUE** *An attractive rural setting on a large campus.*

**COURSES** *on archaeology, creative writing, geology, golf, ancient Egypt, science, novelists and philosophers.*

**DATE** *Thursday - Saturday, 3rd - 5th April*

**COST** *£185*

**DETAILS** *and application forms from David Starling or Ann Taylor.*

**Forms must be in by November 10th.**

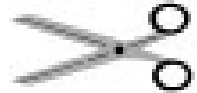
## ARMCHAIR TRAVEL

Since the last newsletter we have had two very interesting presentations, the first one by David Starling on a visit he made to Australia and the second one by David Rosser on a recent trip to Sicily. Looking to the future, Sheila Greenhalgh is scheduled to give us a presentation on Cyprus in October and Michael Ellis the following month on a trip he made to the Baltic. We would welcome contributions from other U3A members for next year. If anyone has a selection of digital photos or slides of a trip which they enjoyed and would be prepared to show one afternoon to our Armchair Travel group, please get in touch with me so that we could make arrangements.  
Peter Roca



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**Craft group 2** meets on a Monday morning 10.30am-12.30pm. This group has been set up with a view to members of the group each hosting a session. The November meeting will be hosted by Ann Taylor.



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## Literature Group

*At our last meeting we welcomed Anthony Dickinson, author of 'The Strangling of Satan' and his latest novel – 'The Juice of the Poppy'. The group enjoyed an interesting talk from this well-travelled author, followed by a lively discussion. A previous resident of Neston, Anthony now lives on the borders of Cheshire and Shropshire.*



*It is hoped that some members of the group will visit several of the many events that are taking place at the Chester Literature Festival during October.*

*We do try to invite authors along to a few of our meetings as well as reading a great variety of books we receive from Cheshire Libraries Shared Services.*

Pam Garner  
Group Co-ordinator

# Committee Member

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Hello, my name is Pat Dix, and my job on the Committee is Membership Secretary, On retirement five years ago we found that, although we had lived in Heswall for nearly 28 years we knew very few people from the local area. I had at that time been working full time for 52 years - 25 years with Jacob's Biscuits (Associated Biscuits) and 27 years in our own printing business. All our friends and commitments were in the Chester area where we lived

before moving to Heswall. Derek is the President of the City of Chester Lions Club this year - the last time he undertook this job was 30 years ago. On retirement we decided to integrate more fully into the local community and that is how we came to join Neston U3A.

After all my experience and knowledge of the printing industry I did not even know how to switch a computer on - staff had always operated our computers for us. The first thing I did was sign up for tuition with Sheila John and what an experience that was. Sheila has such a tremendous knowledge of computers and even writing up programmes - she also has the patience of a saint. I arranged to attend the Computer Course for Beginners which was about 12 lessons but in actual fact she keeps in touch with all her pupils - only last week I contacted her about a problem I had with attaching photographs to an email. So now I have joined that elite set of Silver Surfers (or I would be but for the kindness of the hairdresser).

I don't know how I came to join the Committee, one day I was casually helping out on the desk taking the entrance fees and the next minute I was on the Committee - I really don't know how this happened but it did.

The membership job is now completely computerised, thanks to the two programmes Sheila has set up for Neston U3A. All I have to do is tick boxes and put in new names and addresses and they magically put themselves into alphabetical order or whatever. We currently have 312 members but each year lose quite a few through sickness, family commitments etc. There is a need to both recruit new members and have more people attending the monthly Open Meeting. Each month we struggle to cover our costs - the hire of the hall, speakers fees etc. Thankfully the raffle does bring in a useful amount, without this we would really be in trouble.

Neston U3A has given me, personally, so much with my computer skills, gardening and the luncheon/soup group to say nothing of the many friends we have both made since joining. Could I ask you please to try to help with recruitment/attendance by BRINGING A FRIEND to the monthly meetings with the hope that a few might join this excellent organization?

## REFLECTIONS OVER THE WATER

As a child in war-torn Liverpool  
There were bombs falling out of the sky,  
Our wonderful city was being destroyed  
But nobody told me why.

Each day brought a different landscape,  
Where once shops and churches had stood,  
Where schools and houses had been full of life  
Now there were mountains of bricks and blood.

But somewhere there was a better place,  
It lay 'over the water' they said,  
There were green fields and trees and golden sands,  
"Oh, let's go there instead!"

So when the last bombs had fallen  
Leaving Liverpool broken and torn,  
We ventured 'over the water'  
To search for a hopeful new dawn.

We walked down peaceful country lanes  
And along the sands of Dee,  
We picnicked on Thurstaston Common  
Where the air was fresh and free.

We'd spend a whole day at New Brighton  
Until we were ready for bed,  
Then take the ferry back 'over the water'  
To gaze sadly at bomb-sites instead.

I deserted that battered old city  
And moved to the Wirral to find  
A pleasanter place to raise children,  
And leave all those memories behind.

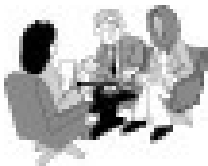
But now that I'm very much older,  
I look back 'over the water' and see  
A great city I took for granted,  
Looking reproachfully back at me.

Now, I marvel at its great buildings  
And its maritime history,  
At its graceful, timeless waterfront  
Which now means so much to me.

*Jill Carlson May 2008*

# Discussion - Rummikub

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## DISCUSSION GROUP 2

Discussion group 2 can take a few new members. We meet monthly at Hallwood in Neston on the second Wednesday of the month at 2 p.m.

The format for our meetings is very simple. We agree a topic at the previous session. We start each meeting with coffee. Then one member of the group introduces the topic with up to five minutes of (mainly factual) background information. We then discuss the topic (and sometimes other related issues) as a group for about an hour. We are not a debating society, so discussions are very informal and we feel under no obligation to come to any firm conclusions.

The Third Age Trust advises that politics (we interpret this as “party politics”) and religion should not be discussed. We have observed this advice. Our only other “rule” is that whoever suggests a topic should not be the one to introduce it at the next meeting. Since we agreed to this practice, we have never had difficulty in finding a topic for the next month.

If you are interested in joining the group please contact me at the monthly meeting or on 0151 342 6077.

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## RUMMIKUB

There are spaces in the Rummikub group on the 1st and 3rd Tuesday evenings of the month from 7-9pm and newcomers would be made very welcome. Please ring Mary Williams for further info on 0151 336 7141.



## Outings

*It has been a disappointing quarter for outings. First of all our much anticipated trip to see the Knutsford Millennium tapestry was cancelled as the tapestry was being treated for moths. A disappointing response for the canal boat trip from Christleton to Chester City Centre meant that we had spaces not filled on the day. However, a wonderful day out was enjoyed by the 7 people who attended. Lunch in Chester and a bit of retail therapy was enjoyed as well as a really peaceful and relaxing day on the canal boat. The weather was also kind.*



*If you may be interested in a trip to the Amsterdam bulb fields next April (after Easter) please get in touch with me. It is still a work in progress as we are required to have a minimum of 20 people and we currently only have 14.*

Kay Wells    [kaywells5@gmail.com](mailto:kaywells5@gmail.com)    336 1577

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## PHOTOGRAPHY GROUP

Our only recent outdoor event was a visit to Birkenhead Park. Curiously I had been at the Park only the previous Saturday in connection with the Birkenhead Transport Festival when large sections of the Park were full of ancient steam tractors, narrow gauge railways, classic cars, steamboats, merry-go-rounds, side shows and stands. But all that had gone! On this afternoon the main inhabitants of the park were the ducks, pigeons and squirrels in or around the Park. Other than ourselves the only visitors seemed to be people walking their dogs. We explored the area of the Park around the pond taking suitable photographs prior to descending on the Visitor Centre for a hot cup of tea or coffee which was very welcome after a somewhat chilly afternoon.



For those interested in knowing more about the activities of this group, they would be welcome to attend one of our meetings which are normally held on the third Wednesday of the month.

Peter Roca

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## OPEN MEETINGS

NESTON CIVIC HALL, HINDERTON ROAD, NESTON

Doors open 1.15 pm, commence at 2.00 pm

Thursday 24th November

LIVERPOOL'S CIVIC BUILDINGS

Speaker; Elizabeth Newell (Blue Guide)

Thursday 15th December

'CHRISTMAS FUN'

With the 'Concourse Singers'

Thursday 26th January

'CHINA - THE WORLD'S GARDEN CENTRE'

Speaker; Peter Cunnington

Interest group leaders' telephone numbers may be found on the meetings schedule which is available as a separate leaflet.

***The closing date for contributions for Issue 15 is Monday 16th JANUARY. Contributions in the 7/10 days beforehand would be very helpful. PLEASE PUT THIS DATE IN YOUR DIARY NOW, especially Group Leaders not on email, who will not receive a reminder.***

***The next issue will cover the months of February, March and April 2012.*** Contributions may be e-mailed to [apj@wrensnest.me.uk](mailto:apj@wrensnest.me.uk) ideally as a Microsoft Word attachment, or directly in the e-mail, but will be welcomed in any format.

Send to 3, Leighton Park, Neston, CH64 6TR  
or ring 336 1095 if you need help.