

WELCOME TO THE DECEMBER, 2014 NEWSLETTER

Dear U3A Member,

First of all, on behalf of all the Leeds U3A committee, season's greetings and every good wish for a happy, healthy & prosperous New Year.

It will soon be 2015 - the 30th year of U3A being in Leeds and for me, the year has flown by. Getting used to being your Chairperson has been an interesting exercise and if I hadn't been so ably aided and abetted by the committee, group leaders and sundry volunteers who make the U3A work, I couldn't have done it.

What is U3A anyway? Every single one of us is U3A but together we become much more. We combine to 'do it for ourselves, not for financial gain but because we can. We learn together, share our abilities and keep active both mentally & physically. It's really all about coming together and being part of something positive.

Our general meetings have changed slightly over the last term with the emphasis being on our own groups and less about 'bought in' speakers, This is not part of a penny pinching exercise but an effort to get back to U3A's core values of inclusion and participation. We will continue to have speakers but some meetings will be activities put on by our own U3A groups. For instance, the Book Group's book swap & literary quiz in November, which, proved to be a great success.

On November 18th Malcolm Oxley came to talk to us about the medieval monks who lived at Kirkstall Abbey. An hour wasn't enough to hear all he had to say about this fascinating period in our local history so I asked if he might come back in the summer and tell us more on site. He provisionally agreed so I hope he will be able to do that and perhaps we can combine it with a summer picnic at Kirkstall Abbey?

The Christmas lunch at Castle Grove on 2nd December was great from the mulled wine welcome through the delicious meal and excellent company it was a real treat to spend some time with fellow members in a social situation.

Finally, I hope you enjoy your U3A in 2015

All good wishes

Janet Keogh

Chair

GETTING INFORMATION OUT TO MEMBERS

This package includes your subscription notice for 2015 together with a Gift Aid declaration and the Programme for the Spring Term. You will appreciate that with ever increasing postal costs sending information to members is a costly exercise. Some items, however, do need to be sent out in printed form. The committee has therefore decided to reduce, as far as possible, our postage costs. In future, we shall be mailing out the following items:

- RENEWAL OF MEMBERSHIP NOTICE
- NOTICE OF THE AGM

It is our intention to include the Spring Programme with the Renewal Notice and the Summer programme will be with the AGM notice.

Other newsletters and information to members will be sent by e-mail to all those who have a registered e-mail address (requested on the renewal form). Printed copies will be made available at the Tuesday meeting and will also be made available to group leaders for circulation at their meetings for members who do not have e-mail. We consider that this will ensure that we contact all members.

GIFT AID COMES TO U3A LEEDS

In common with most registered charities, Sally Firth, U3A Treasurer has applied to H M Revenue and Customs to obtain permission to apply for a rebate of tax in respect of subscriptions and donations made to Leeds U3A by members.

In order for the claim for rebates to be made the member must sign a declaration confirming that they are taxpayers and return the signed document with their application for membership forms will be retained by the Treasurer and will be presented to HMRC when required. In the event that a member's circumstances change such that they are no longer a taxpayer they are asked to advise the Treasurer of their intention to withdraw the Declaration. You will find a copy of the Gift Aid Declaration form included with your membership renewal pack.

RENEWING YOUR MEMBERSHIP - STILL ONLY £10.00

In keeping with the U3A's 'Aims & Principles', which, states that '**membership subscriptions and costs should be kept as low as possible**' the yearly subscription rate is to remain the same at **£10.00**. Renewal forms will be with you soon and you should ensure that you respond as soon as you can. If you are making payment by

cheque, kindly note that receipts will not be sent out unless a stamped addressed envelope is enclosed with your payment.

DID YOU KNOW - MEMBERS CAN NOW PAY BY BANK TRANSFER?

If you wish to pay by bank transfer please return the booking form by e-mail to salandtk@yahoo.co.uk and forward your remittance quoting your name and membership number to **Yorkshire Bank Moortown branch. Sort Code 05-01-26 Account No 56225567. Account name- U3A Leeds.** The signed copy of any Gift Aid form is required by HMRC.



AWARD FOR LEEDS U3A GROUP LEADER

Our warmest congratulations go to Yolande Sowerby who won the 2014 Age UK Community Volunteer Award. As well as being one of the Leaders of our Book Group, Yolande has taught Tai Chi for a number of years at Age UK. Yolande also got to meet the ever popular June Whitfield who was guest of honour at the awards ceremony.

30TH ANNIVERSARY EQUIPMENT UPDATE

As part of our commitment to update the equipment belonging to U3A Leeds, a second digital projector and a laptop will be bought for the use of groups meeting at HEART together with a new CD player for the language groups. The music group's equipment will be updated at the beginning of the Spring term.

CALLING ALL MEETERS & GREETERS - HELP WANTED

After many years of being the welcoming face of U3A at MASSC General meetings, a couple of our stalwart members are retiring from the job. Our thanks to them for their sterling efforts. Can you help to collect entrance fees and be a welcoming face at the door? Let me know.

STILL SEEKING GROUP COORDINATOR

Could you help? If you think you'd like to give it a go or be part of a team get in touch with a Committee member as soon as you can.

SPRING PROGRAMME 2015

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES GROUP

We have been approached by Dr Ralph Hebden who has recently relocated to Leeds, from Sheffield where he ran an Environmental Studies group for the U3A for a number of years. It is planned to have an inaugural meeting at HEART on Monday January 19th at 10.30 for Dr Hebden to outline what he means by Environmental Studies and to get an initial discussion going. Dr Hebden is prepared to suggest a programme for the period leading up to Easter. If you are interested in attending this meeting with a view to finding out more please contact Janet Keogh, Acting group Co-ordinator.

CHESS CLUB

I recently received an enquiry about starting a **Chess Club**. If this is something you'd like to do contact Janet Keogh, Acting group Co-ordinator with your details.

NON-U3A ART STUDY COURSE

From 5th January, the artist Wendy Atton will be running the following Courses at Headingley Parish Hall, St Michaels Rd, Headingley, Leeds, LS6 3AW:

Beginners Drawing Course

Course duration: 7 weeks

Course price: £50 (this includes all materials)

Course starts: 7th January 2015 Time: Wednesdays 6.30pm – 8.30pm

Beginners Pastel Drawing Course

Course duration: 7 weeks

Course price: £53 (this includes all materials)

Course starts: 5th January 2015 Time: Mondays 10.00am – 12.00pm

Beginners Watercolour Painting Course

Course duration: 7 weeks

Course price: £57 (this includes all materials)

Course starts: 7th January 2015 Time: Wednesdays 10.00am – 12.00pm

Anyone interested should contact Wendy direct by telephone: **07788 871286** or e-mail her on artist@wendyatton.co.uk