



FEBRUARY 2015 NEWSLETTER

Dear U3A Member,

This being the first Newsletter of the year, the Committee & I wish you a happy, healthy & prosperous 2015 and hope you enjoy all that U3A Leeds has to offer over the next 12 months.

As you will know, 2015 is the 30th Anniversary of U3A Leeds and I hope you will feel as proud as I do to be celebrating U3A's long history in Leeds. Looking back through the archives I was surprised to learn how humble those beginnings were, did you know?

- In 1985 when U3A Leeds began, the annual membership fee was £1 and there were 28 full members.
- The first Chairperson of Leeds U3A was Fred Stevens and the first Secretary was Ernest Smith.
- Initially meetings were held at the Swarthmore Centre on Woodhouse Square in Leeds, however, owing to a variety of problems, the 1986 Committee, moved operations to Moor Allerton Sports & Social Centre.
- In the beginning there were only 3 main interest groups; those being Art, Music Appreciation & French for Beginners. The Literature group started in 1987 and the Walking Group in April 1988 with its very first walk being the 'Golden Acre Circular'.
- By 2007 the number of interest groups had risen to 10. Today we can offer over a great choice with over 30 groups covering a wide range of subjects, interests and activities - with more being added on a regular basis.
- In 1995 there were approximately 100 members and in 2014 there were over 500 members proving that U3A Leeds is still thriving.

As you know our organisation is built on the self-help/mutual aid principle and I'd like to take a moment to thank all those members who brought U3A to Leeds and who have, over the years, striven to ensure its survival so that now, in 2015, we can benefit.

That's it for the potted-history except to say that in April we will celebrate three decades of Lifelong Learning in Leeds and I hope you will do all you can to ensure that, 30 years from now, we can pass on to the 2045 generation of third-agers a strong and thriving U3A.

All good wishes

Janet Keogh

Chair

U3A Leeds enquiry line: 07552 48834
www.u3aleeds.org.uk

NEW GROUPS & GROUPS NEWS

The new Philosophy Club, Environmental Studies and the Writing for Pleasure groups all got off to a good start. They would welcome new members so, for anyone interested, details are:-

ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES WITH DR RALPH HEBDEN, 11.00am - 12.30pm,

1st & 3rd Friday of the month

at H.E.A.R.T., Bennett Road, Leeds, LS6 3HN

Just come along

PHILOSOPHY CLUB, 7-9pm, 3rd Monday in the month

at Inkwel Arts Café, 31 Potternewton Lane, Leeds, LS7 3LW

Contact Lin Walker on 217 0365

WRITING FOR PLEASURE, 10am - 12 noon, 3rd Thursday of every month

at The Immaculate Heart of Mary Catholic Church, 294 Harrogate Road, Leeds, LS17 6LE

Contact Jenny Atkinson on 07954 288 540

GOOD NEWS FOR ALL PICKERS, STRUMMERS & WIDLERS

Guitar for Beginners is now meeting weekly instead of fortnightly

at 2.30pm every Wednesday at the Highwood Hotel, Brackenwood Drive, Leeds, LS8 1RG. New members are very welcome so **contact Michael Lockwood on 07855 198 526** to find out more.

WHAT'S MISSING? - YOU ARE!

New groups are always welcome whether it is 3-4 members meeting in someone's home or more members at a rented venue. At present we lack Crossword, Scrabble and Knitting groups. If you think there is a gap in our programme and you would like to start your own interest group, just get in touch on **07552 48834** or at **www.u3aleeds.gov.uk** and we will explain how to get started and help you every step of the way.

Once again, we owe a debt of gratitude to all our Group Leaders & Administrators , all unpaid volunteers,

for their sterling work in allowing U3A Leeds to offer such a variety of subjects and activities.

2015 SUBSCRIPTION REMINDER

The Committee would like to remind all members that the annual subscription for 2015 was due by the 31 January. **If you have not paid your subscription you will not be able to attend the general meetings or any group meetings** as attendance at any form of U3A meeting

(other than an initial introductory meeting) by a person who is not a fully paid up member of the organisation will invalidate the insurance for **ALL** people present. We have no alternative but to enforce this regulation and will be advising group leaders of any persons who should not be attending their groups.

GENERAL MEETINGS

27th January saw Andy Wilson from Cancer Research UK come to tell us about developments in the quest to understand the causes of cancer and innovative new trends in its treatment. His presentation, whilst not blinding us with too much science, gave a fascinating insight into the work currently being done here in Leeds on:

- Genetic and epigenetic factors
- Biomarkers and molecular pathology
- Targeted therapies
- Early clinical trials and randomised prospective trials

It culminated in an offer to show a group (or 2 groups) of members around the C.R.U.K. Laboratories at St James' Hospital. Quite a few members wish to take up his kind offer and arrangements are being made to do just that. Well done to Eileen Fergusson, Activities & Speaker Secretary for booking Andy to speak.

SPECIAL GENERAL MEETING & ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Will be held at **2pm on Tuesday, 10th March at Moor Allerton Sports & Social Centre**. As there is no charge for attending the meeting, a box will be put out for donations which this year will be for the Cancer Research UK Charity.

For the past few months the Committee has been operating with the absolute minimum requirement of five officers. Please consider serving a term as a committee member to make certain that we can maintain the status quo and keep U3A Leeds operational. Nomination forms are available by contacting a member of the Committee.

Nominations & Motions submitted must have a Seconder and be with:-

The Secretary - U3A Leeds, 9 Hadleigh Court, Harrogate Road, Leeds, LS17 6DP by no later than last post on 3rd March, 2015.

SPECIAL OFFER

U3A has received a special offer from the Secretary of the International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival for U3A members who would like to attend:

THE INTERNATIONAL GILBERT AND SULLIVAN FESTIVAL, 2015 Special Performance of Sullivan's "Golden Legend" in Leeds Town Hall Friday 14 August 2015 at 7.30pm

A highlight of this year's Festival is a performance of Sir Arthur Sullivan's **THE GOLDEN LEGEND** that will be performed in the Leeds Town Hall at 7.30 pm on Friday August 14th. This will be a memorable event as The Golden Legend returns to its original setting where it was first performed in 1886. The performance will be conducted by James Hendry supported by a large choir and significant orchestra. Tickets cost £20 with discounts of 15% (plus 2 free tickets) for groups of 30 or more and 10% for groups of 10-29 (plus 1 free ticket).

We hope that your members will be interested in attending this very special performance and we look forward to welcoming your Group and Members to our Festival this August.

With best regards,

Bernard Lockett

For: The International Gilbert and Sullivan Festival.

www.gsfestivals.org /My Direct Tel: 0777-6174895

**If enough members are interested it may be possible
to arrange an outing later in the year**

CAN YOU HELP TO STAMP OUT SUSPECT CALLS, DOORSTEP ENQUIRIES & BOGUS E-MAILS?

There is now a dedicated Action Fraud Line so if you believe someone contacting you is not genuine or is out to deceive you, you should report the matter to **ACTION FRAUD - NATIONAL FRAUD INTELLIGENCE BUREAU, Tel: 0345 404 0506** and they will investigate and steps will be taken to disrupt the actions of suspected criminals which may result in the closure of fraudulent websites, telephone numbers and bank accounts.