

THE MEOLS MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Meols (Southport)



www.meols-u3a.org.uk

MERRY CHRISTMAS TO YOU ALL



Issue 11 December 2010

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

"Hello Everyone. Welcome to our Christmas 2010 Meols Messenger Newsletter. A newsletter is about communication and that means a two-way thing. So, please let us (the committee) know what you want from our U3A, whether it is a new interest group, a nomination for the committee, or something that you think needs changing. We can only put forward ideas but you are the ones to make it happen. In the meantime, here's wishing you all a Very Happy Christmas and Good Health in 2011."

FROM THE EDITOR

Early 2011 is going to be a busy time for Meols u3a!!!

Eleanor, our new chairperson will be explaining to us all how she intends to lead our group and how she sees the future for us. We have the AGM on Feb 8th to look forward to and the changes that will arise following this meeting. All officers and committee members are up for re-election.

Enclosed with this issue of the Messenger is a Nomination Form. Do please use it to nominate someone, including yourself, you would like to see playing an active part in helping to run our branch

For certain roles on the committee i.e. Treasurer, Secretary, Membership Secretary, Newsletter Editor etc, it would be a great advantage for the holder to have a computer and a basic knowledge of the internet.

Job Descriptions for all committee roles are available from Eleanor.

For the benefit of newer members, the current committee and their additional responsibilities are shown below:-

OFFICERS

Chair	Eleanor Bowden (Speakers Secretary)**
Vice Chairs	Eric Newton, Paul Halsall
Secretary	Jennifer Mawdesley (Membership Secretary)**

Treasurer Tony Barber (Accommodation, Technician, Refreshments)
 **Jennifer wishes to retire from the committee so we need a new Secretary,
 Membership Secretary and also a new Speakers Secretary.

OTHER MEMBERS

Newsletter editor Mike Kedzlie
 Eunice Owen (Website Co-ordinator)
 Doreen Blackburn
 Margaret Wright
 Pam Armitt
 Audrey Halsall

GROUP CONTACTS

MUSIC APPRECIATION – Steve 536830	Continues to meet 1 st and 3 rd Tuesdays of each month.
THEATRE – Pam 549841	21 st Dec. to 9 th Jan. 'Babes in the Wood'. 28 th Jan to 5 th Feb 'Game Plan'. 18 th Feb to 26 th Feb. 'The Rise and Fall of Little Voice' 9 th Mar to 12 th Mar. 'Toms Midnight Garden'.
CREATIVE NEEDLEWORK GROUP Eleanor 231966	Meets at 58 Rathmore Crescent at 2p.m on the 26 th January 2011

LUNCHEON CLUB
Contact – Eunice – 213419

Wednesdays' at 12 pm

12 th January, 2011	Reuters, 26, Hoghton Street
26 th January	The Pageant, 70, Folkestone Rd., Kew
9 th February	Salvatore (formerly The Curzon) 519, Lord Street
23 rd February:	The Richmond, Scarisbrick New Rd.

Please advise me if you cannot attend on 213419. Thank you.
 We have two new members, namely Valerie Clegg and Sheila Hewitt, who we welcome most warmly to our luncheon club.

WALKING GROUP
Contact –Nat – 224805

WALKING GROUP

Eleven walkers turned out for the October walk which circles the historic City of Chester. Arriving in Chester the group headed for Grosvenor Park, and in bright sunshine lunched whilst watching the antics of the grey squirrels.

Proceeding, the party crossed the iron bridge and walked alongside the fast flowing River Dee and away from the City. There was plenty of activity on the river as the paddle steamer Diane glided past giving us a friendly Hoot, and although the kingfishers remained elusive, a cormorant was seen tussling with a large eel.

With the Cathedral always in sight the group continued in a wide circle covering much meadow and parkland before arriving back at the main bridge of the city, for a well earned tea break in the Bridge Inn.

With the sun still shining it was decided not to walk along the Roman walls or to go into the bustling shopping area but to track back via Grosvenor Park in another direction. On the way out of the Park the gardeners were busy filling the beds with hundreds of wallflower plants which will remain lifeless until next spring when they will welcome us back with an array of colours.

Future Walks:

- Dec 6. Calderstones/Clarkes Grdns. Meet Southport Station 9.50am. Fiona.
Dec.13 Woodvale to Lydiate. Meet Christ Church Lord St 10 am Bus. Walter.
Dec. 20, Liverpool Carol Concert Plus Optional Chinese meal. Southport Station
9.50 am. Vera/ Fiona.
Dec. 27 Crossens to Southport. Meet Round-About Plough 10.15 am. Walter/Nat.

Alternative arrangements will be made if cars are unavailable

GARDENING GROUP **Contact – Sylvia – 224099**

GARDEN GROUP PROGRAMME FOR 2011

The Garden Group year ended with a lively meeting at Sylvia's discussing plans and ideas for 2011, some of which are shown below. Further visits and meetings will be published in the Messenger as and when they are arranged.

- January 20th Lawnmower Museum, Shakespeare St. Meet outside 1.50pm
February 24th Dobbies Garden Centre. Talk by well known garden guru. Meet outside
1.50pm
March 30th Hesketh Park Spring Walk. Start seeds/plants for our show.
Meet Café 1.50pm
Spring/ Summer garden visits to be arranged

OUT & ABOUT GROUP **Contact – Margaret Wright - 380012**

Wow, the group has now been running successfully for two years. The visits to the many places of interest have been diverse and enjoyable.

Thank you all for your support, I have thoroughly enjoyed our adventures, I apologise for any disappointments felt by anyone, but constructive criticisms are always welcome. However, the time has come for the group to be organised in a different way. Groups should be run by the members with the input by the members. To this end I am asking for members to organise some of the outings.

It would be wonderful if a second group could also be formed to allow the newer members to repeat some of our previous visits.

At the time of reading this, our visit to the Southport Town Hall on the 7th December will have been our final visit in the present format of the group.

Wishing all the group continued success. Very best wishes to all for Christmas and Good Health for 2011

PROGRAMME FOR 2011 **An early look at our speaker programme**

- Jan 11 Tony Baker RSPB, Marshside
Feb 8 ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Mar 8	Wilf (Billy) Hopkins	Family Sagas
Apr 12	Mr and Mrs Jones	Australia Travel
May 10	Nicola Jones	History of the Botanic Gardens
June 14	John Leston	T J Hughes
July 12	Ann Pinder	Lytham St Annes
Aug 9	Canon Brunswick	Humour in the Ministry
Sept 13	Carol Banks	History of Bath
Oct 11	MEMBERS HOBBIES AND COLLECTIONS	
Nov 8	Steven Halliwell	Woodland Trust
Dec 13	Christmas Celebrations	

FANTASTIC HOLIDAY OFFER!!

Doreen Blackburn is organizing a 5 day(4 nights) holiday in Northumberland based at the Otterburn Hall and Hotel. The cost is from £299 per person and includes dinner, bed and breakfast, trips to the Ford and Etal Estates, Alnwick Castle and Gardens and a River Tyne cruise.

It sounds excellent value and full details can be obtained from Doreen who will need to know potential numbers a.s.a.p. so that she can confirm the booking

Doreen has been able to secure quite a few single rooms for the holiday which runs from Monday April 4th and is based on 40 people travelling.

FIRST MEETING OF THREE SOUTHPORT U3As (BIRKDALE, MEOLS AND SOUTHPORT)

The following were notes taken by Eleanor at a meeting of the 3 Southport U3As on 18 November 2010 at the Ramada Hotel hosted by Ted Morrell of Aughton and Ormskirk U3A. At the moment we are one U3A in three locations - Birkdale, Meols and Southport.

Ted Morrell opened by saying that the meeting was basically to take stock and promote U3As in Southport. We should not look back but go forward by exchanging information, ideas and vacancies.

Southport U3A said that they are in the process of affiliating to the Third Age Trust. (88% of its members had agreed to this move). They are celebrating their 25th anniversary in the New Year.

Ted Morrell said that there is money available to promote the U3A movement through publicity and perhaps we could join together with this in mind. These were not rules, just guidelines and we should try to bring the three U3As together so that we can share joint activities with members.

Birkdale said that they welcome new members. However, their meeting room has a maximum capacity for approximately 60 people. They have grown this past year and some of their interest groups are full capacity.

Southport said that they would like to have access to other U3As interest groups. If an interest group had full capacity it would be a good idea for someone to start a new group covering the same subject. They could gain experience by initially attending the original group

It is suggested that we could go to each other's monthly speakers' meetings and, provided there was space, to attend each other's interest groups. We need a contact point for each U3A to let each other know which groups have space.

There was some discussion regarding websites and newsletter. Meols (Southport) was the only U3A with a newsletter and website. Great interest was shown by all.

Ted Morrell suggested that we might have a joint speaker event which would provide publicity for non-members. A grant for this may be possible

Perhaps we could also produce a joint leaflet showing all activities within our U3As?

It was proposed that the next meeting should be in February 2011.

Of course, it is necessary for all these suggestions to be put to our members

What do you think?

NORTH WEST REGIONAL EVENTS

Regional Conference at Lancaster. 13th January at the Friends Meeting House 10.30 – 16.30

Regional Study Day, 22nd March, Tullie House Museum, Carlisle. Romans and Reivers

NEW MEMBERS

We warmly welcome the following new members to Meols u3a and look forward to meeting and chatting to them at forthcoming meetings:-

Doris Johnson; Shirley Hodgson; Roz Hughes; Eileen McCormick; Joyce Walsh; Dorothy Taylor; Sheila Hewitt.

AND ANOTHER THING.....

Our Website Co-ordinator – Eunice Owen, *wants to see more input onto our Website from Group Leaders, particularly up to date information that cannot wait for the next Messenger to be published. Any problems regarding input please contact Eunice on 213419*

BOOK STALL

Thanks to those of you who have donated books to the bookstall in the past and we hope you will continue to do so. However, for the future we are only accepting fairly new, good, clean hardbacks and paperbacks which can be sold to our members. Of particular interest are gardening, arts & crafts, wildlife and autobiographical books.

Thank you for your assistance in this matter.

Contact Doreen for the Raffle, and Eunice for the Book Stall.

PLEASE NOTE:

Deadline for copy for next issue is 1st February 2011 if possible by e.mail. to mike.kedzlie@gmail.com

Mike Kedzlie

POSSIBLE AND EXISTING INTEREST GROUPS

Would you like more interest groups in our u3a? Here are some suggestions.

Group	x	Group	x	Group	x
Coach trips	x	Crown Green Bowls		Painting	
Creative Needlework	x	Digital Photography		Philosophy	
Gardening	x	English Literature		Play Reading	
Holidays	x	European Studies		Poetry for Pleasure	
Lunch club	x	Family History		Scrabble	
Out and About	x	Films		Shared Learning Projects	
Music Appreciation	x	French Conversation		Singing	
Theatre Visits	x	Garden History		Spanish	
Walking	x	Geology		Wine Appreciation	
Archeology		Golf		Women’s History	
Art Appreciation		History		World Religions	
Astronomy		Keep Fit & Tsai Chi.		Other Suggestions please list below	
Botany		Local History			
Book Reading		Italian			
Computers for beginners		Jazz Appreciation			
Creative writing		Line Dancing			

If you are interested in any of these please put “X” beside them and we will see what we can do. If you are interested in helping any new groups get “off the ground” so much the better!!! I have included our existing groups so that they do not feel left out!!

You can hand in your form, together with your name, at the next monthly meeting.

Eleanor Bowden – Chairperson.

Members Name

Contact Phone number

E.mail address

Would you be willing to start up and possibly run a group?

If so which group

**NOMINATION FORM
FOR MEOLS U3A COMMITTEE**

Please hand in nominations at the January monthly meeting or to any committee member.

I..... WISH TO (please print)

NOMINATE

SECONDED BY

I AGREE TO BE NOMINATED (SIGNED)

Post you wish to hold

OR - I AM INTERESTED IN JOINING THE COMMITTEE

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