

THE MEOLS MESSENGER

The Newsletter of the Meols (Southport)



www.meols-u3a.org.uk

Issue 5 – December 2009

FROM THE CHAIRMAN

On behalf of myself and the committee I would like to wish all members a very merry Christmas and prosperous New Year.

I have enjoyed my year as chairman and hope I have been a good one.

What I would like to ask – are there any ladies who would like to take the chair as we have not had a lady chairperson at Meols u3a yet.

I would like to thank all team leaders for their hard work in running Groups but we do need more Groups starting, so if anyone would like to start a Group, please contact myself or Tony.

Last year we had 3 wonderful days out to Harrogate/Skipton, York and the Lake District with a grant of £500 that Tony got for us.

I am looking forward to the Christmas Party this year as we have outside caterers' a singer and music plus wine or orange juice, so it should be a good party. So far over 60 members have booked places, which is very encouraging.

I would like to thank Mike Kedzlie for volunteering to edit and produce our new venture. The Meols Messenger which has been a great success with the members – keep it going Mike.

I would like to thank Doreen and Pam for their sterling work on the raffle and Eunice for organizing the book sales. All their efforts help pay for the hire of the hall which is a big expense for us.

Once again I wish you all keep in good health in 2010.

Thank you,

Paul Hallsall, Chairman.

FROM THE EDITOR

Meols u3a and the Internet -

As a committee we receive a reasonable amount of information by email via the internet. and this gets posted on our website (www.meols-u3a.org.uk) by our webmaster Eunice Owen.

As the Lancashire Link of the u3a continues to expand, the amount of information being passed to us via the internet will increase.

So far this year we have received news on the forthcoming summer school; concerts in Lancaster and Preston; various link meetings etc. etc. We try to post copies of the emails on the notices table but we are not sure that everyone is aware of them. Also because we

meet monthly, sometimes the events mentioned in the emails take place before we can get the information out to you at the next meeting.

QUESTION How many of our members have access to a personal computer and can use e-mails as a free means of communication? How many want to?!!!

As well as link news we could also email information on the various group activities and even a copy of this newsletter.

Please let me know (by email of course!) to mike.kedzlie@googlemail.com

The Battle of Wounded Knee – Part 2 and concluding!!!

The knee is much better now – more flexible and I am more mobile, so much so that I have been enrolled at the Dunes Fitness Centre for rehabilitation. Much puffing and panting has ensued and much hopping (??!!!) on and off various exercise machines is taking place, so all being well this is the last you will hear of my wretched knee.

Thank you all for your kind thoughts.

GROUP CONTACTS

<p>GARDENING – Sylvia 224099</p>	<p>A lively and very vocal meeting took place on November 5th at Margaret Jacklin’s house when ideas for the 2010 programme were put forward and discussed. Since that meeting Sylvia has arranged a very exciting and interesting day trip, by coach, to 2 famous Shropshire gardens – Woolarton Old Hall and The Dorothy Clive Garden – both near Market Drayton. This will take place on Friday July 16th – more details to be published later.</p> <p>See list of dates for Garden visits in Diary Column.</p>
<p>MUSIC APPRECIATION – Steve 536830</p>	<p>This group meets fortnightly on the 1st and 3rd Tuesdays of the month to listen to CDs of classical music brought along by members.</p>
<p>WALKING – Nat 224805</p>	<p>Oct 26. Members turned out in force for the popular Lytham walk which was led by Walter. The walk began trekking through the woodland trail known as Witchwood, so named because in the under growth there is a head stone marking the resting place of a race horse known as the Witch. It was owned by the wealthy Clifton family, and although reputedly never won a race it was obviously held in high regard. Arriving at the marble church the walk continued around an unusually quiet Fairhaven lake. After lunch the group proceeded along the dunes and sea front. Looking across the estuary towards home its surprising how close Banks and Southport seem and how strange not to see the huge land mark which was the gasometer. The walk then took the party past the peaceful Lowther Gardens and finally across the wide green and into the bustling town centre. After the tea and cakes etc and a quick look around the shops everyone boarded the bus for the homeward journey marking the end of a very satisfying day. See under diary dates below for details of the</p>

	early New Year walks.
THEATRE – Pam 549841	22nd December to 10th January - Pantomime "Beauty and the Beast"
OUT AND ABOUT Margaret 380012	. 2010 programme will be announced later.
LUNCHEON CLUB Eunice 213419	23 Dec. The Barking Frog 137 Manchester Rd (Prebooking required, ticket for this lunch only). 6 th Jan. The Falstaff, King Street, Southport 20 th Jan. The Richmond, Scarisbrick New Road 3 rd Feb. The Bold Hotel, Lord Street 17 th Feb. The Swan Fish & Chip Restaurant, West St. (or entrance off Lord St. -down the left hand side of the Bold Hotel. Obituary It is with sadness I have to report the death of one of our long standing members, Pat Hubbard, who died in the early hours of Saturday morning, 24th October, in hospital, aged 70. Pat was a member of several groups and group leader of the luncheon club until she had to resign because of ill-health.

WALKING GROUP

Dec 21	Waterloo To Hightown	Southport Station 9 - 50 am	Owen
28	Crossens To Southport	Meet Round-About 10-15am Plough	Walter

JAN 4	Pier Head To St Michaels	Southport Station 9 - 50 am	Walter/ Nat
11	Buscough Bridge	Southport Station 9 -50 am	Pat
18	Thornton / Little Crosby	Christ Church 10 - 00 am Bus	Shirley
25	Mere Sands	Cars Churchill Ave 10 - 00 am	Fiona
FEB 1	Hooton To Neston	Southport Station 9 - 50 am	Nat
8	Grange Hill / West Kirby	Southport Station 9 - 50 am	Shirley
15	Preston River Walk	Early Bus X2	Anne
22	Hoylake To Moreton	Southport Station 9 - 50 am	Pearl

Alternative arrangements will be made if cars are unavailable

GARDENING CLUB

January 14th	2.00p.m.	Meet at Ladygreen Nurseries	
February 18th	2.00p.m.	Greenhouse Sensation - Mawdesley	Hydroponics talk
February 27th	10.00.a.m.	Porters Fuchsias, Southport Old Rd, Formby	Talk Tour & Refreshments Donation to Life Boat
February	Each Sun.	Bank Hall, Snowdrops	
March 18th	2.00.p.m.	Botanic Gardens	Treasure Hunt

April 15th	2.00.p.m.	Walter's Garden, 15 Merlewood Ave.	Numbers restricted
May 15th	2.00p.m.	Carniverous Plants – 8 Sandheys Drive, Southport.	Tour, Talk & Refreshment
May	t.b.a.	Calder Vale Bluebells TBA	
June 10th	2.00 p.m.	Mrs. P. Gregson's Garden, 100, Liverpool Road	
July 16th		Coach trip to Shropshire	Details later
August	t.ba.		
September 16th	2.00p.m.	Fiona's Garden, 5 Sefton St.	Numbers restricted
October	t.b.a.		
November	2.00p.m.	Sylvia,s (Programme &Plans)	
December	t.b.a.	Christmas Event	

U3a Programme for 2010

DATE	SPEAKER	SUBJECT
12 January	Mr John Robinson	Norway
9 February	AGM	DVD Southport
9 March	Mr Ken Hooton	C.A.B
13 April	Canon R J Brunswick	Strange things in medieval England
11 May	Mr. Campbell Price	Egyptology
8 June	Mrs, Janice Atfield	The Park Keeper's daughter
13 July	Mrs, Magda Clarkson	Welfare Consultant Age Concern
10 August	Mr. John Leston	T J Hughes
14 September	Mrs. G. Armstrong	Family History
12 October	Mr. Stuart Wharton	Galapagos
9 November	Gillian Greyson	Life Skills
21 December	Christmas Celebrations	

AND ANOTHER THING.....

Volunteering

We need "a little help from our friends" to run our U3A. There are three ways in which you can give us a hand.

(a) It has been suggested that we have "welcomers" to greet new people who come to our monthly meetings, make them feel at home, tell them about our U3A and point out to them group leaders etc. so that they will come again.

(b) Another way you can help is by serving the tea and washing up - extra hands are always needed.

c) We could also need some more interest groups. Our "Hobbies Day" last year showed how much hidden talent there is amongst us all. Perhaps you would like to share your interest with others?

If you would like to volunteer for any of these activities, please give your name to Eleanor Bowden.

SOME JOKES FOR CHRISTMAS!!

From the Chairman –

“My friend Fred went into a bar in a happy mood. “I’ll have a pint, a pie and a few kind words please barman” he requested. Eventually the barman slapped the pint and the pie on the counter – somberly telling Fred “That’ll be £4.20”.

“What about the few kind words?” Fred asked. “Don’t eat the pie!” came the reply.

Laugh Lines – from Eunice –

What’s impossible to overtake at Christmas? - The three wise men.

Who hides in the bakery at Christmas? – A mince spy!

What carol is heard in the desert. Oh camel ye faithful!

How do sheep greet each other at Christmas? – A merry Christmas to ewe!

Why are Christmas trees like bad knitters? – They both drop needles!

Our Webmaster– 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

BOOKSTALL

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 30th January 2010, if possible by e.mail.

**** It will really help me if you do not e.mail contributions in table (tabulated) form in future – simple plain text is much easier for me to copy and paste. Thank you for all your help this year.**

Mike Kedzlie