

# THE MEOLS MESSENGER

## The Newsletter of the Meols (Southport)



[www.meols-u3a.org.uk](http://www.meols-u3a.org.uk)

**Issue 8 – June 2010**

FROM THE EDITOR

### **NEWS FROM THE GREATER U3A**

Up Holland U3A celebrated their 5<sup>th</sup> birthday with appropriate celebrations including a proclamation by the Town Cryer! In 5 years they have grown their membership to 500. The NW Region's finances are now in a healthy state with appropriate reserves for an organization of our size. We are supported by The Third Age trust for a representative AGM and a one day conference along with the necessary organizational costs.

#### *SPECIAL EVENT – ENERGY DAY AT PRESTON*

The Regional U3A have organized a special Study Day on July 7<sup>th</sup> at St Cuthbert's Church Centre, Lytham Road, Preston 1230 -1730 when 3 notable experts on energy generation will cover all the main options available for power generation in the foreseeable future including consideration of their practicality and the importance of an appropriate mix. Tickets cost £10 to include a buffet lunch. Application forms are available at the information desk or from Mike Kedzlie at the June meeting.

### **Chairman's notes – June 2010**

As I write this the sun is shining, the birds are singing, and the gardens are full of colour. Summer is upon us. I hope that you can take advantage of all the activities that are planned to get out and about.

We may be planning outings and holidays, but let us give thought to those members unfortunate enough to be prevented, by illness or infirmity, from enjoying this season to the full. In particular, I hope that by the time that you read this, Paul Halsall, our Vice-Chairman, is well on the way to recovery.

Our last two monthly meetings were talks on Medieval England and Egyptology. Anyone who missed them may have thought the subjects a bit dry, but thanks to the lively and informative presentations by Canon Brunswick and Campbell Price respectively, we were well entertained. Who says we are too old to learn something new? This is what U3A is about. Thanks to Eleanor for arranging these speakers.

Enjoy the summer. Eric Newton.

## GROUP CONTACTS

MUSIC APPRECIATION – Steve 536830	Continues to meet 1 <sup>st</sup> and 3 <sup>rd</sup> Tuesdays of each month
THEATRE – Pam 549841	New programme in September
OUT AND ABOUT Margaret 380012	New programme to be announced.
CREATIVE NEEDLEWORK GROUP Eleanor - 231966	Meets 4 <sup>th</sup> Wednesday of every month at 58 Rathmore Crescent.
LUNCHEON CLUB Eunice 213419	<u>Wednesday at 12 p.m. as usual:-</u> 9 <sup>th</sup> June Auberge Brasserie, 16, Seabank Road, Off Lord St.(down r.h.s. of The Bold) 23 <sup>rd</sup> June Fylde Fish Restaurant, Fylde Rd.,(next to Pharmacy & Cooperative/Somerfields) 7 <sup>th</sup> July The Richmond, Scarisbrick New Road. 21 <sup>st</sup> July The Barking Frog, 137, Manchester Road 4 <sup>th</sup> August The White House, Park Road West, Nr Southport Golf Links. 18 <sup>th</sup> August. Salvatore (formerly The Curzon) 519, Lord St. If you cannot attend any of the above-mentioned venues then please let me know BEFORE MIDDAY MONDAY OF SAME WEEK, if not before; as the number of lunches have to be ordered to alleviate wasting food. You can always ring me on 213419 and leave a message. Thank you for your co-operation.

## GARDENING GROUP CONTACT – Sylvia – 224099

### May 15<sup>th</sup> 2010

Warmly welcomed, by Alan and Janet Leyland to their garden and special collection of carnivorous plants – Serracina. Alan certainly passed on his enthusiasm and knowledge of these most unusual plants, sometime known as Pitcher Plants, which attract flies, insects and other invertebrates into their insides. No feeding is necessary for these self sufficient plants as rain water is their only need. Grown from seed, the collection was neatly labeled and dated and will mature into quite beautiful flowers. They will be on show at the Holker Show in June.

### May 23<sup>rd</sup> 2010

The hottest of days for our bluebell walk in Caldervale. The Gardens group enjoyed refreshments in the village hall at the end of a happy outing.

### June 1<sup>st</sup> 2010 Mike's garden in Banks

The break in the weather promised by the forecasters duly arrived and 5 members of the group were able to enjoy Mike's herbaceous borders, alpines and hosta collection in relative comfort – the morning rain had freshened up the garden and the borders were very colourful and full of texture. Afterwards Mike's wife Sandra

entertained the members to tea and a slide show of their recent trip to Keukenhof Gardens in Holland.

### **Dates for your Diary**

24 June 2p.m Mr & Mrs Gregson's garden, 100 Liverpool Rd  
 1 July 2p.m Sylvia's Garden  
 10-11 July 10-4 Ainsdale Open Gardens  
 11 July 12-5 Mere Brow Open Gardens (Tickets – Tastebuds Café)  
 16 July Gardens in Shropshire coach outing  
 9 Sept 2p.m Fiona's garden  
 26 Sept 10a.m Harvest Festival, Caldervale  
 4 Nov 2p.m Sylvia's planning with A T.  
 Dec (t,b,a) Christmas Lunch

### **WALKING GROUP**

Bidston Hill Walk: The recent walk to Bidston Hill led by Margaret Wright proved to be a Winner with the 15 walkers who turned out. In fine weather the group meandered up the woodland trail to the windmill on the summit and enjoyed a panoramic view of the Liverpool skyline whilst lunching.

Continuing, the group dropped down to the Tam O'Shanter Urban Farm which is run by the Wirral council to bring the experience of animals and farm life to the younger generation. The name Tam O'Shanter was given by a master stone mason who lived there in 1830 and was an avid Robbie Burns fan.

After refreshments in the well stocked tea room the walkers followed the trail back, which was covered with an abundance of wild flowers to Bidston station for the journey home thus ending an excellent walk .

June 7	Woodvale / Lydiate	Meet – Christchurch Lord Street 10a.m for bus	Walter
June 14	Clitheroe	Early Bus X2	Fiona
June 21	Mere Sands	Cars Churchill Ave 10a.m	Pearl
June 28	Melling and Lunch	Eastbank Street 10a.m for bus	Dierdre
July 5	Hilbre Island	Southport Station 9.50a.m	Owen
July 12	Entwistle Reservoir	Cars Churchill Avenue 10a.m	Margaret Eleanor
July 19	Owd Nells	Cars Churchill Avenue 10a.m	VerA
July 26	Hooton/Neston	Southport Station 10a.m	Jack/Nat

**Alternative arrangements will be made if cars are unavailable**

### **WHAT MAKES A GOOD WALK?**

I came across the following extract from "Plantlife" magazine which I have slightly adapted and sums up for me the pleasure of our walking group which meets every Monday, except Bank Holidays. We tend to travel by public transport to places in our area, but sometimes by Mersey Rail to the Wirral. Why not come and join us?

"What makes a good walk? Well good weather certainly makes a difference, although there is something to be said for the indomitable British spirit in rain or snow! What else makes a good walk? My practical side lists good boots, a map and packed lunch, whilst my social side includes someone to walk with. Above all, for me being able to see and enjoy the flora and fauna of our countryside. In springtime, it is bluebells, wood anemones and lambs but I am also looking forward to the succession of wild flowers that will follow through the year!" **ANON.**

### **Diaries**

Bargain Offer. a U3A diary for 2011. You can order from Jennifer Mawdsley. Cost £1.90. Payment needed in advance.

### **U3A TRAVEL WRITING COMPETITION**

Theme: "My journey of a lifetime" closing date 20th August 2010

Entries should be no longer than 800 words and be your own unpublished work.

For details contact Eleanor at 231966. Prize is two Bradt Travel Guides of your choice plus a gift token.

### **For you crafters out there -**

The wool shop from the indoor market has now relocated to -  
15 Wesley Street, Southport telephone 538968 under the name of The Woolpack and stocks wool from £1.10 per 100gm, needles, patterns, crochet hooks, buttons etc.

### **AND FINALLY.....**

*During a visit to the old peoples home, I asked the Director how they determine whether or not a patient should be admitted.*

*"Well" said the director, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the patient and ask him or her to empty the bathtub."*

*"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because its bigger than the spoon or the teacup."*

*"No." said the Director, "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"*

### **AND ANOTHER THING.....**

**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.**

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### **PLEASE NOTE:**

Deadline for copy for next issue is July 26<sup>th</sup>, if possible to mike.kedzlie@gmail.com  
Mike Kedzlie