



N.W.Website:

<https://u3asites.org.uk/north west>

N.W News

December 2023



Derwentwater, Lake District

Photo by:

**Kelvin Rushworth,
Skiddaw u3a**

Message from the Chair



Seasonal Greetings to everyone as we approach the end of another busy u3a year.

The NW committee really needs some support as well. We are not a management committee. Our role is to support the regional trustee and the groups in the North West region. We do this by organising workshops and interest days, supporting networks and communicating with members. We have vacancies which can be filled immediately so please consider getting involved. Without the committee events such as our wonderful Summer School and Big Sing would not be possible.

The committee would also like to reiterate our hope that we can create a **STAR** group – **Short Tasks As Required** – to assist with some of our planning. It might be to help with meeting and greeting people or providing refreshments at one of our events. Or perhaps taking part in planning an activity. We'd love to have your suggestions – and your offer to join!

Our recent AGM workshop was attended by members from 16 u3as. We started off with a spoof of a very bad AGM and then shared discussion groups. Members commented on how useful they had found it and how much they had enjoyed exchanging information and expertise.

I was recently invited to a lovely afternoon at the Little Theatre in Southport where the u3a presented 'Southport u3a has Talent'. It was a superb demonstration of the talents and skills so many u3a members have, and best of all – there were no judges and no buzzers. It started me thinking about a 'NW Region has Talent'. Watch this space. You never know what next year will bring!

Best wishes to all.

Gill Russell. Please contact me on u3anwrchair@gmail.com

NORTH WEST SUMMER SCHOOL 2024

Following our very successful Summer School this year, we have started planning for 2024. Dates and Venue are still to be finalised but we hope to have that information early in the new year. Updates will be put onto the NW website as soon as we have all the relevant details. Meanwhile we are looking for prospective tutors. If you would like to offer a course please contact our regular organisers, Alan Hough alanhough1949@gmail.com or Neil Stevenson neil.stevenson@beacon.u3a.org.uk as soon as possible.

NEWS FROM THE GROUPS

Lymm and Thelwall u3a

The group took part in a Community Tree Festival at a local church in Lymm at the beginning of December. The festival is open to groups, schools, play groups etc. This year's theme is New Beginnings. The members picked up on this, with how u3as

provide opportunities to try something new or share interest with others.



This tree gave purpose to cones and other natural materials, with a little added sparkle. Most items can be recycled and even most glitter is biodegradable.

Lancaster and Morecambe u3a

Happy Feet. Members have been dusting off their dancing shoes and learning to wiggle their hips to Latin beats thanks to new member Hazel. She only joined in February and has not only taken on the History Group but also started a Latin dance class which was so popular that after only three sessions was up to 54 members. We're learning Salsa and Merengue, as well as how to count to eight. Dancing is an excellent hobby for people of all ages but particularly as we get older – though none of us are quite as agile as Angela Rippon!



Photo credit: Dave Green

Mawdesely u3a



Mawdesley u3a held a raffle with a difference for Children in Need. Terry, one of our members, is an experienced microlight pilot who regularly offers flights to raise funds for local charities including Hospices and NW Air Ambulance. His recent 'passengers' have included the Mayor of Chorley and his 93 year old Mother-in-Law who described the experience as 'fantastic' and wants to go again!

Terry offered a flight as a raffle prize. We sold 100 tickets at £5 each and the lucky winner will get to fly for an hour, with the opportunity to see their house from the air.

Along with our usual raffle and coin collection we raised a total of £783.52 for Children in Need.

Preston u3a

It's Panto season again...Oh yes it is!!

Preston and District u3a's Drama Group, The PADUTA Players, are putting on their annual Pantomime in January and are currently hard at work rehearsing. It is a family event, open to all, and always proves very popular. With a Pantomime Dame and a Baddie it has a traditional theme, written in-house but loosely based on 'The Wizard of Oz'.

The PADUTA Players have been 'treading the boards' since 2014 and this is their 5th Pantomime to date. They also perform

a play in the summer. So far their Pantomimes have included: 'Scullery Maid Wanted' (a mix of Pantomime characters); 'After the Ball is Over' (based on Cinderella); 'Robin Hood & The Royal Jewels' and last year, 'Alice in La La Land'.

It takes a lot of hard work and organisation to put on these productions but it is good fun and well worth the effort.

So why not give yourself an after-Christmas treat and bring your grandchildren to support this event. You're sure to enjoy yourselves! **See the flyer accompanying the newsletter for details**

Leigh u3a – On your bike!



A new cycling group started in autumn this year. Or more specifically a Couch to 5 miles 6 week course. We were very fortunate to have support from Wigan Council's Cycling Activator and a support volunteer. Everyone had the opportunity to borrow a bike and/or helmet and all this support was free – what's not to like! IN the safety of an enclosed area we covered all we needed to know to build our confidence. Then, blessed with (mostly) good weather we set off to explore beautiful Pennington Flash.

Formby u3a Recorder Event

Thank you to everyone who has already registered for this event. We can now confirm the date as February 24th at the

Quaker Meeting House in School Lane, Liverpool. To ensure we can cover costs for room hire and tutor's expenses the cost of attendance is expected to be £25 per person. Bank details for payment will be sent in due course.

NB there are still places available. If you would like to attend please contact Helen Lewandowska on helenlew1962@outlook.com. Please try to register not later than January 31st.

Do you have news? I'd love to include it in our next newsletter which will probably be in February.

Please send to Gill at
u3anwrchair@gmail.com

Speakers

Have you had a really good speaker at your u3a? If so, we'd like to update our speaker list on the NW website. We will only add names of people recommended by u3a groups and we ask potential speakers to complete a simple form detailing their talks and which u3as they have spoken to so we can ask for confirmation.

Finally, The NW committee would like to wish you a happy Festive Season, (whether you celebrate Christmas, Hanukkah or any other festivity,) and a happy, healthy u3a 2024.

Learn, Laugh, Live with u3a.