

# *New Mills and District*



March  
2015



# Spring forward

**INSIDE: Lesley takes over, page 2 ... Cyclists in the snow lane, page 3 ... Learning opportunities, page 4 ... Forthcoming speakers, page 5 ... Jay bows out, pages 6 and 7 ... Outings in the picture, page 8 ... Is science for you? page 9 ... Spanish takes off, pages 10 and 11 ... Coffee morning alert! page 12**

**WEBSITE: [www.newmillsu3a.org.uk](http://www.newmillsu3a.org.uk)**

---

# Lesley takes over the reins

From the  
**CHAIR**

by ANN APPS

the annual two-day conference which begins the day before.

I'M pleased to inform you that we now have a Business Secretary. She is Lesley Thompson who became a member of the committee at the AGM last October.

We do still have vacancies for two committee members, which means that we are short of helpers. So please think about whether you would be willing to help to run your U3A.

Please ask me, or any committee member, if you would like information about what being a committee member entails.

## *Third Age Trust AGM and Conference*

THE Third Age Trust AGM will be held on Thursday, August 27, at the East Midlands Conference Centre, Nottingham, during

## *St John Ambulance Pocket First Aid Guide*

THIS guide is available from the Third Age Trust's online shop. If we order them in groups of 10 they are 25p each. Please would Group Leaders let me know if they would like a first aid guide and we will make a bulk order.

## *Free Legal Advice*

THE Third Age Trust have informed us that FirstAssist offer free, 24-hour, legal advice for all U3A members. They can advise U3A members on any legal issues, not just U3A-related ones. Telephone FirstAssist on 01455 251 500 and quote the following details:

NAME: The Third Age Trust. NUMBER: 70494.



**LESLEY THOMPSON:  
Succeeds John Turnbull  
as Business Secretary**

**BOOK Group 3 have moved their venue and are now meeting at Springbank Arts Centre, usually on the first Monday of the month at 10.30am.**

**However, due to bank holidays the dates of some meetings have had to be changed. Here are the next three dates: March 30, April 27 and June 1.**

**There are spaces for new members if anyone would like to join and they will be made very welcome.**



**The severe winter weather which arrived with the new year didn't stop our intrepid cyclists from getting out and about**

# Life in the snow lane

WINTER brings a particular hazard for the cyclist. You can wrap up for the cold, but snow and ice are particularly problematic. Not so bad cycling “off road” on tracks where the grip is better, but “on road” staying upright is more of a problem and such conditions are best avoided.

Snow was forecast for our first ride of the New Year and true to form it arrived and I had to cancel the ride.

The next day's forecast however was good so out we ventured in glorious sunshine. The route took us from New Mills via Disley through Lyme Park, out by the West Gate and around to Bollington where we had a canal side café stop for coffee and snacks.

A proposed alternative section to my intended route took us steeply and very strenuously up a cobbled road over towards

## CYCLING

Pott Shrigley where we rejoined the route. A long steep climb over to Kettleshulme and then a devious back road, with more cobbles, up a steep hill over to Whaley Bridge. This was particularly difficult and most of the group were reduced to walking. This was a most unusual sight.

We returned to New Mills via Bings Lane to Buxworth where some further refuelling took place in the sunshine near to the canal before the final hill over Dolly Lane to New Mills.

It had been a tough ride but the scenery and weather gave us a fabulous day. It had been designed to help remove the Christmas excess and it probably helped.

Keep them coming.

*Derek Peterson*

# A whole host of learning opportunities are out there

TRY something new for 2015...[www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk) has numerous online courses including History of Castles, Religions of the World, the Romans, China in Transition, Antarctica, Continents on the Move, Astronomy and Evolution.

Maybe prepare with online research or other practice for a U3A summer school?

July 13-16 near Telford offers Art in France 1890-1914, Creative Writing, French Life Today (in French), Film History –

Directors, Philosophy in Novels, A Practical Theatre Project, Recorder Playing, Shakespeare and the Supernatural, and finally, Maths.

August 17-20 in Cirencester: 20th century American Drama, Garden Design, Rome – Augustus to Hadrian, La Bella Italia (practise your O-Level standard of Italian), Diaries, Letters and Memoirs, Lectures on Classical Music, Scandinavian Noir Films on TV, Skywatching, Singing for Pleasure,

Writing Biography.

More details on [www.u3a.org.uk](http://www.u3a.org.uk). A £75 deposit is needed by April 30, total £285 (residential).

Do you have a favourite hobby, skill or enthusiasm, perhaps like some of the the above, that you could do for a short course (two or three sessions) for your friends in New Mills U3A?

Have a chat about it with Barbara Morris, our Groups Co-ordinator ([groupscordinator@newmillsu3a.org.uk](mailto:groupscordinator@newmillsu3a.org.uk))

## THEATRE

HERE are details of productions I have provisionally booked for the Spring/Summer 2015 season at the Royal Exchange. These are all Wednesday matinee performances which start at 2.30pm.

**April 29, Anna Karenina:**

*Anna (played by Ony*



*Uhiara, pictured above) is the envy of St. Petersburg society. Glamorous and admired, but locked in a*

loveless marriage, her sudden and passionate love affair with Count Vronsky puts at risk everything she has ever known.

**June 10, Ghost Train:**

This is described as a blisteringly funny reboot of the 1923 play by Arnold Ridley (later to find fame as Godfrey in Dad's Army).

*Lyn Gurney*



**KINDER DOWNFALL** as we rarely see it ... This spectacular image was captured by fell runner and photographer Katherine Harvey, of Hayfeld, during the big freeze which gripped our region early in 2015

A NUMBER of interesting and informative talks are coming up at New Mills and District Monthly Meetings.

David Frith is giving the talk this month entitled '**A Walk to Kinder Downfall**'

David is co-founder and Honorary President of the Longdendale and Glossopdale Footpaths Preservation Society, which is 40 years old this year.

He will also deliver **April's** talk - '**Go With the Flow**' - which follows the River Goyt from the Cat and Fiddle to Stockport.

Our **May** speaker, Judith Higgins, will talk about the '**Terracotta Warriors**'. In 1974 farmers digging a well in a Chinese field stumbled upon a pit containing thousands of life-size terracotta figures. The site was soon identified as the ancient burial place of Emperor Qin. Historians believe that some 700,000 workers worked for nearly three decades on the mausoleum. So far a 20-square-mile compound has been

## Our Monthly Meetings aren't just about business

excavated, including some 8,000 terracotta soldiers.

In **June** Alison Crowther is giving a talk called '**Cutty Sark - Voyages, Cargoes and Crews**'. She is a descendant of the Willis family for whom the ship was built.

The Monthly Meetings, to which all our members and prospective members are invited, are held on the third Tuesday of each month at 10.30am at New Mills Town Hall. Usually they begin with a short business section, followed by refreshments and then the speaker.

## THE NEW GROUP LEADERS ARE ONLY TOO WELL

# Thanks for leading the way, Jay ...

A SUCCESSFUL and enjoyable series of visits in 2014 concluded with Jay Turner deciding that he was unable to continue as the Group Leader.

Inevitably, all the members were concerned by the news because we have been under his wing for many a good year and we have all benefited greatly from his botanical and ornithological knowledge. Nevertheless, we appreciated his reasons for the decision and celebrated the ending of an era with tea and cakes at the Carsington Water cafe after another excellent trip.

All the members of the group would like to record their thanks to Jay for running the group for so long and hope that he will



**Fred Pickering (left) and Dave Pierce**

## BIRDS and BOTANY

continue to come out with us and share his expertise

The members have now appointed new co-ordinators, Dave Pierce and Fred Pickering, who are well aware that they have big boots to fill. After collating and researching members' suggestions, reviewing previous visits and looking out for new places of interest, the 2015 schedule is now as follows:

Tuesday, March 17 - Pennington Flash Country Park, Nr Wigan

Wednesday, April 8 - Poynton Coppice and Jacksons' Brickwork Local Nature Reserve

Thursday, April 30 - Reddish Vale Country Park

Tuesday, May 19 - The Longshaw Estate

Wednesday, June 10 - The Limestone Dales

Thursday, July 2 - Old Moor RSPB Reserve, Nr Barnsley

Tuesday, July 21 - Tissington and High Peak Trails

Thursday, August 13 - Buxton Country Park

Wednesday, September 2 - The Goyt Valley Reservoirs

## AWARE THAT THEY HAVE BIG BOOTS TO FILL



**NATURE TRAIL: Jay Turner pictured on one of the many Birds and Botany field trips he has organised**

Tuesday, September 22 - Moore Nature Reserve, near Warrington  
There will also be a November meet to somewhere where we can see winter migrants but this has yet to be confirmed.

We have tried to balance our visits across a broad range of habitats. Over the course of the year we will be visiting local sites plus some further afield. We will cover old industrial sites reclaimed for wildlife, woodlands, wetlands and wildflower meadows, limestone dales and gritstone edges to try and encounter as broad a range of species as possible. Although named

Birds and Botany, we are interested in all varieties of plant and animal life to be found in our countryside.

Meeting at the Coop car park in New Mills to car share, numbers are only limited to the seats available. So far we've never had to turn anyone away! Non of us pretend to be experts but help each other out with identifying what we find. So, if you share our interests and are happy rambling through fine countryside with lots of stops to attempt to identify a wildflower, a bird or butterfly, fungi or beetle then why not give Birds and Botany a try?

***Dave Pierce and Fred Pickering***



**Pictures from the Outings Group annual lunch held at New Mills Golf Club in January**



THE Outings Group plans a cruise from Manchester city centre to Salford Quays with three course meal on Tuesday, May 12.

Leaving Castlefield at noon, during the outward journey your starter and main meal will be served.

On reaching the Quays a one hour stay will allow passengers time to visit the retail outlet or explore the area on foot.

The sweet course and tea/coffee will be served on the return journey, arriving back at Castlefield around 4pm

Including meal and coach travel between

## OUTINGS

New Mills and Manchester the cost will be approximately £32. A deposit of £5 will be required in March.

### ***Further trips***

**Thursday, April 23** – Castle Howard, £23.  
Depart 8.30am. (Full with waiting list).

### **Friday, June 5**

Biddulph Grange Gardens and Little Moreton Hall (both NT).

*Short Walks (with pub lunch) Group 1 pictured near Errwood. The walks take place on the second Tuesday of each month and start at 10.30am. This group is for those people who would like to get out into the country but who feel they may not be up to a longer walk. Group Leader: Chris Weaver (shorterwalks@newmillsu3a.org.uk)*



## Uncovering technology

ARE you interested in scientific and technological developments and how they affect our lives? If so, why not join our Science and Society Group?

We meet on the fourth Wednesday afternoon of the month (at New Mills Adult Education Centre) to discuss issues and concerns, with each meeting's discussion usually being led by a member of the group. No particular knowledge of science is required.

## SCIENCE and SOCIETY

Our provisional programme for the next few months is:

**March 25:** Meat (led by John Lord)

**April 22:** Satellites (led by Ian Westall)

**May 27:** Drones (led by John Turnbull)

**June 24:** Geological Time (led by Derek Brumhead)

Any changes to this programme will be shown on the group's web page. Occasional visitors are welcome, but please let me know if you wish to attend (science@newmillsu3a.org.uk).

Suggestions for topics are also welcome.

*Ann Apps*

# Spanish for beginners is really taking off

OUR Spanish Group has been running for over six years now and most of the current class (including some "founder members") have a fair grasp of pronunciation and are able to hold brief conversations or talk about simple topics with confidence.

One or two recent recruits had dropped out as they found it hard to catch up, but they and a number of other U3A members had expressed interest in a beginners' class.

As a result, it was decided to form a new beginners' group and Mike Crompton, who had been helping with the existing class, kindly offered to take this on.

## **Informal**

The new class started in January this year. The original intention was to hold it on the same days as the "veterans" group and at the same venue, but in the top floor reading room. However, such was the interest the reading room proved too small for a group of

## SPANISH

about 15 to 18, so we used the basement room, alternating with the "veterans".

The beginners' group now meets on the second and fourth Mondays of the month, from 10am to noon, at the Footsteps social centre in Whaley Bridge.

The classes are informal and concentrate on the spoken language rather than too much grammar. Whether you want to be able to communicate with the locals during your Spanish (or South American?) hols, or just want to learn a new language (one of the easier ones), you are welcome.

In November a party of 27 met at Murillo's Spanish restaurant in Marple for our annual dinner. As usual we enjoyed excellent Spanish cuisine in an authentic Spanish atmosphere and, thanks to valiant efforts to order in Spanish, we all got the dishes we were expecting!

*John Aldridge*

## LANDSCAPE ARCHAEOLOGY

IF you are fond of country walking and would like to learn more about the historic landscape of the Peak District, I'm sure our group will appeal to you.

We visit areas with good visual remains of the past including prehistoric

sites, Romano-British and medieval settlements, and traces of former industries.

These are the dates of our field outings for 2015: April 23, May 28, June 25 and July 30.

All, including newcomers, are welcome. Please contact me for further details (01663 744838).

*Ron Weston*



The Spanish Group (above) has been running for six years and has given rise to a new beginners' group



Opening a window on travel in rural India

## TRAVEL

MEETINGS of the Travel Group are open to the full membership and take place on the third Thursday of the month at 2pm in the New Mills Library lecture room.

Here are some events to look forward to:

**March 19** - Brian Turnbull on Rural India

**April 16** - Mac McLaughlin on Egypt: Abusimbel, Luxor, Cairo and the Pyramids

**May 21** - Jean Sugden on Scenic Walks in the South of Spain

Anyway who wishes to give a talk about their travels please contact Group Leaders Neil Baker (01663 765664) or David Sims (01663 744528).

# COFFEE MORNINGS

OUR committee would like to encourage members and prospective members to come along to the monthly coffee mornings to meet your friends, make new ones and enjoy tea, coffee and biscuits in a friendly and sociable environment.

As a further incentive you're likely to be served with cheerful smiles by a number of our committee members who are also available if you have questions, ideas or issues about our U3A which you'd like to discuss.

We're always keen to hear your thoughts about how we're doing and how we might improve.

In addition there is the ever-popular Book Swap to look forward to.

The dates and times of the coffee mornings are on the website but generally they are on the final Tuesday of each month from 10.30 to noon at the U.R.C. Church (Providence) on Mellor

## Membership reminder

**MEMBERS** should have received their membership renewal notice by now ... just a reminder that the annual fee should be paid by the end of this month (March).



Road, New Mills. The next one is on March 31. We wield a mean teapot!

Hope to see you there.

*Lin Thomas*

**MANY thanks to those of you who have pitched in to this edition of your U3A Newsletter. Email articles and pictures for inclusion in the next edition (June, 2015) to: [newsletter@newmillsu3a.org.uk](mailto:newsletter@newmillsu3a.org.uk)**

**Mike Perry, the editor, can also be contacted on 01663 766017. Please understand that contributions may be edited.**