

## Flintshire u3a Newsletter

### Music Live



After being pretty scarce and quiet over the past three years, Music Live are back on the road, midway through their tour of Flintshire. An exaggeration maybe, but we have four gigs in April and two in May and June. Here we are at Llys Raddington in Flint, which enables a residential, cared-for, independent living style for older folk and is run by Clwyd Alyn Housing Association. Modern and comfortable and everyone seemed in good spirits. We played a mix of 1930's standards through to popular songs of the 70's using guitars, ukes, bass and percussion. We enjoyed playing and they all appeared to enjoy it, waving their arms about and singing along. It's worth it - giving back some pleasure. That's what u3a's all about. Music Live started in 2015 and changed name and musical interests since then. Basically, we're about discovering or re-discovering and developing musical skills, learning, playing and performing. Everyone's welcome, regardless of expertise. We currently play folk, blues, pop, rock, jazz and write our own material. We've found there's a lot of talent out there just looking for an opportunity. **John House**

### Meet Committee Member Jon Payne



I'm Jon Payne and I've been a member of Fu3a for nearly 20 years, since I retired. My membership number is 23 so that tells you something. I'm Group Coordinator for Art Appreciation and the Bird Group. I am a member of the Friday Art Group, the Gardening Group, and the Crown Green Bowling Group. I worked in further education at West Cheshire College, where I taught English and Sociology. I was a Section Head, and I helped to introduce and set up 'Access Courses' for adults returning to education, validated by Liverpool University. This was the project and experience I enjoyed most. I finished my FE career on the management team, helping to implement and monitor the then new funding system for the sector. I was elected to the Fu3a Committee in 2022 and my current role is coordinating the web group subcommittee. I encourage anyone who wants to contribute to join us, possibly on the Committee, in trying to make the website more effective and user-friendly. **Jon**

**Editorial Team:** Martin Hampstead and Jo Shone. The newsletter can be viewed on the Fu3a web site and copies will be available at the Open Meetings. Submit articles to [newsmem@flintshire-u3a.co.uk](mailto:newsmem@flintshire-u3a.co.uk) by August 1<sup>st</sup> for inclusion in the September newsletter.

## Chair's Report

What a great idea u3a is! We, of the older generation, have so much to offer. All our years of experience, skill and knowledge, our interaction with people, the life skills that only come from actual experience and much more. So much that would be completely wasted if we just stayed at home and only watched tv. More than 400,000 people have joined u3a across the UK to share all the above and to learn from each other. Each of the 1050+ u3as are both individual and the same. They are individual because of their members, who bring a vast breadth of knowledge, interest and enthusiasm to each u3a. The same because they all meet to enjoy learning from each other in an informal friendly way. Individual because of their geography and their interest groups and the same because they understand and appreciate the joys of friendship and fun, through lifelong learning. Almost 800 people have joined Flintshire u3a so there is a wealth of talent to celebrate and share. So, good for you, you did the right thing in joining u3a!! **Hilary**

## Committee Corner

- The committee is considering who will be available to serve on the committee after the next AGM, a new chair and vice chair will be needed. They welcome anyone who would be interested in joining the committee. To encourage members to appreciate that committee meetings are no great mystery and can be fun, an open committee meeting for all Fu3a members to attend if interested, has been organised. See the separate advert below. Committee members are happy to chat informally to members at any time.
- Murder Mystery evening cancelled due to complications in booking a team to do the 'murder'! A story-telling event will replace it.
- Decisions have been made concerning obsolete equipment – items that are usable will be offered for sale.
- Emergency contact details which have been provided by members, will not be taken to every open meeting or event. Only those members attending a trip will be asked to agree to the trip organiser retaining this information for the duration of the trip.
- Dates of outings will be advertised so members can make a note but they will only be able to book one trip at a time.
- Simple changes to our constitution are being considered but will be put to the membership for approval.
- The purchase of publicity banners, u3a badges and bunting has been approved.

Ever wondered what goes on at our Committee Meetings?

Why not come along to our

**Open Committee Meeting**

on 15th October  
and find out!

• St David's Church Hall •  
from 10 - 12

Are you intrigued enough to want to find out?

**All Members Welcome**  
and there will be opportunity to ask questions  
Tea, coffee and cake will be provided



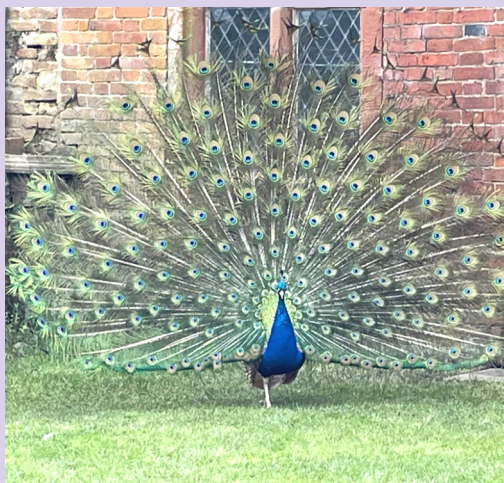
## June Open Meeting-JMW Turner Searching For The Sublime In North Wales-Talk by Ed Williams.

*Ed is an art historian, critic and author based at Tate Liverpool. Above is a Turner painting of Caernarvon Castle c1798.*

The sublime refers to a sense of incalculable greatness. It's an experience that makes us feel small, reminding us of our own insignificance. Painters have travelled to North Wales to capture this feeling of the sublime in their landscapes of the mountains, forests, sea, lakes and rivers. Before the Napoleonic Wars artists would travel to Italy to get inspiration from the classical works of painters and sculptors and also the wonderful landscapes available. Travel to Europe was closed to British tourists in the late 18th and early 19th centuries so artists like Turner had to look closer to home. Travel to N Wales during this period was a difficult and arduous task. The artists would sketch the views that inspired them and on returning to their studios could mix the paints and record the images, not necessarily with great accuracy, as they were not trying to make a photograph but convey a feeling. **Martin Hampstead**

## Outings

At the end of April, a group of members enjoyed a visit to the Offa's Dyke Centre in Knighton and Powis Castle. We travelled at the end of a very wet week so felt fortunate to enjoy the lovely scenery on the journey in sunshine. The coach party included a number of members of the Fu3a Archaeology Group, who have been following the ongoing research into Offa's Dyke being undertaken by Professor Keith Ray and others. We were greeted at the centre by the manager, who gave us an informative talk about its origins and development before we were able to go round the excellent exhibition. There was also some time to explore the charming town of Knighton.



We left there at lunchtime to travel to Powis Castle where we were able to look around the interesting interior and beautiful gardens. Many of us enjoyed the sight of the peacock fully displaying its tail feathers, though the peahen didn't seem at all impressed!

Future outings are planned for later in the year.. In order to ensure that all Fu3a members are informed about them simultaneously, notification goes

out via the bulk email system, and reservations are then taken on a 'first come, first served' basis. No bookings are taken in advance of the email going out. **Lesley Roberts**



The June trip was to Cadnant Gardens and Beaumaris. I was one of 22 members who boarded the coach at Ewloe Social Club. Luckily for me I was using the internet when the email arrived offering places on the coach. Lesley has advised the seats are usually taken within a few hours of the announcement, If you don't get a place straight away there is still a chance if you go on the reserve list as people drop out over the following weeks right up to the day of the trip. **Martin Hampstead**

## A Musical Narrative With The Silhouette Band



An afternoon with a unique band who will talk about how they came together as older people who enjoy playing music. There will be stories and music. Thursday August 29th, 2-4pm, at New Brighton Community Centre. Cost £3 per person. Tea and cake will be served.

Book your place at the Open Meeting on Wednesday 17th July or via [socialevents@flintshire-u3a.co.uk](mailto:socialevents@flintshire-u3a.co.uk)

## Dates For The Diary

**ESSC = Ewloe Sports & Social Club.**

Date	Event	Venue
Wed July 17 <sup>th</sup>	Open Meeting 10am. 'Air Traffic Control - Manchester Airport'. A talk by Nicky Patterson	<b>ESSC</b>
Thu Aug 29 <sup>th</sup>	A Musical Narrative. Afternoon tea with live sixties music. 2-4pm. Booking is essential. Watch out for emails with more details.	New Brighton CC
Wed Sep 11 <sup>th</sup>	Open Meeting 10-12. "Legacy Fortress For Generations". A talk about wills, inheritance tax and power of attorney.	<b>ESSC</b>

## Millpond Reflection

Four mallards, gliding round the millpond edge, make occasional dives for food or play; a heron stands alert, with folded neck and spear-like beak, prepared to strike at prey.

A false tranquillity pervades this space, disturbed by calling of birds unseen and roaring water, falling in cascade, descending stone stairs into a ravine.

Yet ghosts of former industries rise still from remnants of water-power supplies to long-gone manufactories and mills, whose scale remains impressive to our eyes. But building site ruins do not portray the lifetimes ruined by their darkest trade.

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*Greenfield Valley Heritage Park: 15 May 2024*

## Social History

The Social History Group continues to enjoy another successful year with full attendance at our monthly meetings and coach trips.



Our last coach trip was to the National Library of Wales building (see image) at Aberystwyth on Friday 17th May, followed by free time in Aberystwyth town. This coupled with the impressive scenic journey through the Mid Wales and good weather made for a very enjoyable day out. Three further excursions are planned for the remainder of the year. Details will be sent to registered members by email, and announced at the monthly meetings in the near future. Once again every effort regarding fairness will be taken over the coach trips, which are invariably over subscribed, your understanding on this sensitive issue is fully appreciated.

## Future Programme

Date	Subject	Speaker	Details
<b>Mon 1st July</b>	River Mersey	Brian Anderson	A fascinating and illustrated look/presentation into how the river Mersey has changed from early days to the present day important shipping passage.
<b>Mon 5th Aug</b>	The Airbus Story	Mark Chaliner	Ex-works employee/photographer Mark shares his images of the local Broughton Airbus plant from its early beginnings to the present day.
<b>Mon 9th Sept</b>	Williamson's Tunnels	Tony Gavin	Tony is a local Scouser who is a volunteer and a visitors group leader with the Tunnels Society. Tony gives a fascinating insight into the maze of tunnels that exist under the present day city of Liverpool.

Please note the date!!! for the September meeting as the coordinator will be on holiday in the sunny North East on the 2nd. **Brian Bennett - Fu3a Social History Group Coordinator.**