

Our Meetings

Committee Meeting

The Executive Committee met on 3 February. It was agreed that the Secretary (Wendy Milborrow), would coordinate the committee's votes for elections to the new national board. The North-West has two delegates on the new national committee they are David Blanchflower, Aughton and Ormskirk u3a and Gillian Russell, Heswell u3a.

Meetings to allow Group Leaders to meet with each other and members of the Executive Committee, and for new members who have joined Northwich u3a in the last 12 months to meet with Group Leaders and Committee members are to be organised for the last week in March.

February Meeting

The speaker was Ken Pye whose presentation was *The Triangle Trade*. This was a talk about the history of the slave trade with an emphasis on the north of England and particularly Liverpool. Ken explained how Britain and other great maritime cities drove and profited from the Transatlantic slave trade.

Every major port dealt in slavery, including Plymouth, Exeter and London. Major cities including Chester, Lancaster, Edinburgh, Glasgow and Bristol sent out ships. In Bristol alone, there were 2100 voyages and over half a million Africans enslaved. In 1672 the Royal Africa Company was formed in order to "regulate" the trade and it had the monopoly of 2000 miles of African coastline. By 1698 the company no longer existed and the trade was open to all.

In 1732, Liverpool invested seriously in slavery and overtook Bristol as the main port for slaving ships. The ships were filled with Staffordshire pottery, cheap jewellery, cotton from Manchester, Cheshire cheese, wool, mirrors and glass from

St. Helens, pistols from Birmingham and much more, and sailed to West Africa where the slaves were collected at ports (after marching hundreds of miles, branded and kept in inhuman conditions whilst awaiting transportation) and taken to West Africa. As Ken pointed out, every single person who provided goods and the Africans who collected the slaves was culpable.

The conditions aboard ship were truly horrendous. With so many people crowded into the hold, there was no room to move around, no or very little light, stifling heat, no sanitation and minimal food. The slaves endured these conditions for up to 8 weeks. Approximately 40% of the slaves on the ships died during the voyage and of those who survived, only about 60% survived for more than one year.

In 1833, slavery was abolished. The slave owners were paid a total of £20 million in compensation (About £2.25 billion today).

In Liverpool, over 200 streets were, and many still are, named after someone in the slave trade, but now Liverpool educates about the horrors of the trade and celebrates its diversity as, "The World in One City."

This was an extremely informative and emotional presentation in which Ken provided many facts about the abuse and dehumanisation of the slaves. It was very thought provoking and members appreciated it greatly.

March Meeting

The next monthly meeting will be held on Wednesday 19 March at 2pm, at Owley Wood Recreational Club when Adrian Taylor warns, *Scams - Trust No-one*.

Northwest Events and News

Summer School

The North West Events and Newsletter was circulated to all members on 18 February. Members were asked to note in particular details with regard to the North West Region Summer School, which is planned to run between 12-15 August, at the Manchester Metropolitan University. Courses will include archaeology, art appreciation, art challenges, Egyptology and literature. If any members are planning to attend would you please let the Chair, Secretary or Membership Secretary know, to facilitate coordination and feedback.

For full details visit the North West Region website at northwestregion.u3asite.uk

National News

U3a Matters

The February issue of u3a matters has information on a range of Summer Schools including a u3a Climate Change Summer School, which takes place on 9-12 May at Warwick University.

For more details contact Eleanor Brooks at Eleanor.brooks1661@gmail.com.

The issue highlights a number of online learning events, including a workshop entitled *Making your smartphone or tablet easier to use*, which will be held on 18 March at 2pm.

To book go to u3a.org.uk/events.

There is also a brief article on Gill Russell one of the two members representing the North West Region on the new national council.

Member News

Anderton Boat Lift

The Anderton Boat Lift Cafe is currently hosting an exhibition of Artwork showing local flora & fauna. The photographers whose works are features are u3a members Jane Carter and David Arcus. David is group leaders for u3a Walking Group 6. Both David and



Jane also volunteer as Walk Leaders on the Wellbeing Walks organised by the Canal & River Trust that take place in various locations on a Friday morning. These are local walks that last for an hour, free of charge, but need to be booked in advance on the Eventbrite App (available on play store).

Group News

Archaeology Group

New members are welcome to join the Archaeology Group, on 19 March at 10.30am at Owley Wood Recreation Club. The Group Leader, Carol Allen, will talk about Stonehenge and the history of the excavations at this site - One man was told to dig the whole of Stonehenge with almost no money. Fortunately he did not manage it!

| | | | | | Saturday 1 | Sunday 2 |
|--|--|---|---|--|----------------------|------------------|
| Monday 3 | Tuesday 4 | Wednesday 5 | Thursday 6 | Friday 7 | Saturday 8 | Sunday 9 |
| 10:00 WG1 Striders 10:30 Spanish 1 11:00 German 14:00 Latin | 10:00 WG2 Striders 10:00 WG3 Stride & Stroll 14:00 French 1 14:30 French 2 | 10:30 WG6 Walking 14:00 Drama/Script Reading 14:30 Art Appreciation 14:30 Family History | 10:15 Art 10:30 WG4 Walkers 10:30 WG5 Strollers 11:15 Tai Chi 13:30 Mahjong 1 14:00 Knitting | 13:15 Bridge 13:30 Bowls | | |
| Monday 10 | Tuesday 11 | Wednesday 12 | Thursday 13 | Friday 14 | Saturday 15 | Sunday 16 |
| 10:00 WG1 Striders 10:30 Spanish 2 13:30 Scrabble 14:00 Latin | 10:00 WG2 Striders 10:00 WG3 Stride & Stroll 14:30 Wine Appreciation | 10:00 Dog Walking 1 14:00 Drama/Script Reading 14:30 French 3 | 10:00 Cards and Things 10:15 Art 10:30 WG4 Walkers 10:30 WG5 Strollers 11,15 Ukelele 13:00 Current Affairs | 10:00 Badminton 13:15 Bridge 13:30 Bowls | | |
| Monday 17 | Tuesday 18 | Wednesday 19 | Thursday 20 | Friday 21 | Saturday 22 | Sunday 23 |
| 10:00 WG1 Striders 10:30 Spanish 1 13:30 Canasta 14:00 Latin | 10:00 WG2 Striders 10:00 WG3 Stride & Stroll 14:00 Mahjong 2 14:00 French 1 14:30 French 2 15:00 IT | 10:30 Archaeology 10:30 WG6 Walking 14:00 Drama/Script Reading 14:00 Monthly Meeting | 10:00 Dog walking 1 10:15 Art 10:30 WG4 Walkers 10:30 WG5 Strollers 11:15 Tai Chi 13:00 Social History 14:00 Knitting | 10:00 British History 13:15 Bridge 13:30 Bowls | 14:00 Tea and Plants | |
| Monday 24 | Tuesday 25 | Wednesday 26 | Thursday 27 | Friday 28 | Saturday 29 | Sunday 30 |
| 10:30 WG1 Striders – (Exchange visit with Southport u3a) 10:30 Spanish 2 13:30 Rummikub 14:00 Latin | 10:00 WG2 Striders 10:00 WG3 Stride & Stroll | 10:30 WG6 Walking 14:00 Drama/Script Reading 14:30 French 3 15:30 Geology | 10:15 Art 10:30 WG4 Walkers 10:30 WG5 Strollers 11:15 Ukelele 13:30 Tea and Quiz | 13:15 Bridge 13:30 Bowls 14:00 Reading 14:30 Cinema Group Social Meetup | | |
| Monday 31 | | | | | | |
| 10:00 WG1 Striders 10:30 Spanish All 14:00 Latin | | | | | | |

For more information regarding the content of groups and locations, please contact Group Leaders. Access the group page at <http://northwich.u3asite.uk>
Up-to-date subscription is a requirement for ALL group membership; individual groups may also request payment to cover room hire, equipment or materials.
Monthly meeting; the members' check-in desk is a legal requirement for health and safety reasons.