u3aNorthwich Newsletter

NOVEMBER 2026

https://northwich.u3asite.uk

MONTHLY MEETING – OCTOBER 2026
'AGM and SONGS AND HUMOUR'

This month saw the AGM which featured reports from the Chair and the Treasurer. A vote was taken in support of an increase in the annual membership fee to £12 for full members. In addition, five committee members, were voted back on to the committee following the end of their 3 year term. They were Mike Anderson, Rob Brown, Anne Hales, Susan Humphreys, Geoff Wales. In addition Jacqui Edge was elected on to the committee. Janice Jackson was presented with a bouquet of flowers to mark her long service as Committee Chair. She also received a book token from members of the committee.

Following the AGM, the attendees were royally entertained by Rob Mason with 'More Songs and Humour'. Rob had amused members a year ago and was so popular that he was invited back.

Rob's roots are in Folk music and comedy and it all began in 1974 when some Lancastrians found themselves in Greater Manchester and some weren't happy. The Lancashire dialect is a large and very important part of the show.

After a very amusing introduction about being warm and welcoming, Rob's first song was 'A Mon Like Thee', based on a Lancashire dialect poem written by a chap from Kent who was so happy with the welcome he received in the county that he wrote about it. Of course, Rob gave us some work to do; we had to sing the chorus.

Next came a ditty with an extremely funny introduction about an invitation received by the Urmston and Caddishead Ferret Associaton to a Salford Civic 'do'. The man who attended had forgotten that his pet ferret was in his pocket and you can imagine the chaos caused!

Another song was about Charlie Chaplin and his links with Lancashire and in particular, clog dancing. Apparently, some young clog dancers from a town near Wigan were clog dancing on Blackpool prom, were invited to dance in the theatre, met Charlie Chaplin there and then toured with him – he even danced with them sometimes. The song was called, 'The Moon Shone Bright on Charlie Chaplin'.

We finished the afternoon singing campfire songs after Rob regaled us with tales from his Scout camp holiday. On the penultimate song, we had to sing 'Pack up your troubles' whilst Rob sang ', 'It's a Long Way to Tiperary', then we had to swap! And in the final song, we had to leave out the 'ups' and 'downs' in, 'The Grand Old Duke of York', then put them back in and leave everything else out!

Rob's stories and anecdotes included being in charge of the companion set at home, the extending toasting fork, Saturday morning cinema, frozen jublis, conkers, pea shooters and loo paper! He reminded us about how helpful neighbours could be and about 'making do and mending'. We learned about the 'fade' – a bruised apple and about the special rhythm of the mill shuttles.

The audience joined in with the singing, loved the songs he sang and were tickled pink by his humour! Rob was hilarious and tremendously entertaining. Everyone thoroughly enjoyed the afternoon!

NEXT MEETING

Come and join us for the meeting on Wednesday 18th November, 2pm at Owley Wood Recreation Club, Weaverham. David Hearn will talk about Christmas Traditions. David is an historian, author and speaker, and lives on the Wirral.

Northwich u3a information

Reports of monthly meetings and information of upcoming events and activity groups can be found on our website - https://www.northwich.u3asite.uk

COMMITTEE NEWS

Xmas Lunch

Please find below a reminder about the arrangements for the Xmas Lunch, about which you have received an email from Marian Atkinson:-

The Christmas Lunch takes place at Vale Royal Abbey, Whitegate on Wednesday, 16th December 12.30 for 1pm. The cost for tickets this year is £30.00 pp

Tickets will be on sale at the monthly meeting in November. Payment by cash, cheque, or card is available.

Please have your menu choices ready when you pay, if you have dietary requirements, please let the committee member issuing your ticket know.

PLEASE NOTE : The venue has requested that you do not arrive before 12.20 to facilitate the setting up of the tables etc.

CHRISTMAS LUNCH MENU

Starters

Soup: Leek & potato (V/VE/GF)

Chicken Liver Parfait: Whipped chicken liver parfait with red onion chutney, toasted brioche

Main Courses

Traditional Roast Turkey: Roast potatoes, honey-roasted parsnips, creamed sprouts, roasted carrots, cranberry stuffing, pigs in blankets and gravy

Roasted Pork Loin: Creamed black pudding potato, honey-roasted carrots, braised cabbage and cider jus

Wellington: Roasted butternut squash Wellington with spinach, pomme mousseline, and kale

ADDITIONAL BOWLS OF VEGETABLES

Desserts

Christmas Pudding : winter berry compote and Cointreau orange sauce (V/VE/GF)

White Chocolate and Baileys Cheesecake: cookies and cream ice cream

Cheese and Biscuits : available with a £4.00 supplement

Tea, coffee and petit mince pies

Shopping Trip

A trip to Boundary Mill is being organised for a date at the end of November. Please look out for further details

Volunteer Requested

The Committee are looking for a volunteer to help with the organisation of the monthly meeting. Someone is needed to help record the names of attendees at the monthly meeting. Lists are provided and just need to be ticked to record the attendee.

Many thanks to Archie Horton who has performed this role for many years.

Group News

Walking Group 3

This week's walk started at Plumley Garden Centre. The walk took in the Plumley and Smithy Green areas, including the Tree of Imagination. The photograph below shows some of the walkers, who avoided the rain and enjoyed both the walk and subsequent lunch at the garden centre. The walk was led by Geoff and Diana Wales.



