



Monthly Memo

January 2012

Hello, everyone and a Happy New Year to you all.

Over the Christmas break we have seen the starting of one proposed new Group - 'Going for Green' and contact details are given later in this Monthly Memo.

I had been hoping for a Christmas Present of some more volunteers to assist some of the hard-worked Committee and their sub committees now that we are catering for 500+ members. The logistics definitely require more hands to lighten the load. Some people came forward and my warm thanks to them for their willingness to help; but we need more. As you start your 2012 programmes please have a think and a look at yourself and your fellow members and see who makes an impression. Please encourage them to put their names forward then we can approach people personally and discuss just what their strengths are so that we can spread the load and try to make sure no helper becomes over-burdened. Our aim is self-help and we need to achieve success in that way.

Please remember this and all members need to be aware that without much-needed additional help our U3A is likely to falter, perhaps even fail and then fold completely as the original committee (who are mostly "of a certain age" or approaching it), who have put in so much effort, get tired. We do not want tired people becoming ill through over-work as volunteers on your behalf.

Of pressing importance we have need of: a Vice Chairman, a deputy Speaker Finder, and help with the Social Programme events. Out of 538 members even if one in ten offered to help that would be a really wonderful situation.

Best wishes, Lesley Newnham

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**The Wetherby U3A Anniversary Lunch.** A Lunch (Speaker – Nicola Down) will be held on Friday 20<sup>th</sup> April 2012 at the Bridge Inn, Walshford. Application Forms giving full details are available at our Meetings in January, February and March or from Group Leaders and the Website.



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Subscriptions for 2012/2013 – Early Notice for Membership renewal - May we remind members that annual subscriptions are due for renewal on or before 1st April 2012. A renewal application form with full information will be sent out to you shortly, and we are pleased to confirm that our fees are being held at £15 for the year 2012/2013. There will be the opportunity to renew membership and receive new membership cards either: (a) In person at our special "Renewals" Coffee Morning to be held in the Methodist Hall on Wednesday 21st March from 9.30am until 12.30pm or (b) By post – details to be given in the Renewal Notice.

Many of you may well recall that our 2011 renewals day was a very successful, happy and social occasion. May we all help to make this an even better attended annual event. As we have full speaker programmes for our March and April Open Meetings, it is again the Committee's strong wish to avoid delays to the meeting start times caused by attending to renewals when members arrive. Your cooperation in applying for renewal by the two methods mentioned above will be greatly appreciated.

Gift Aid - We have recently been advised by H M Customs and Revenue that we have been successful in our application for Gift Aid Status. Therefore Wetherby & District U3A is now a charity for tax purposes. Letters giving fuller information will be sent out with the subscription renewal notices, inviting those who are tax payers if they would please sign the relevant Gift Aid declaration.

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**News from Groups** - We have received news from many Groups, for which our thanks. Key details are given here whilst in many instances the Website holds more information than we can print. For best use of space contact details are provided in Newsletters and on the Website.

**Play Reading 2** – Our meeting times are now 2.00pm – 4.00pm.

**Folk Dancing** - will now meet on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday from 10.00-12.00 in Clifford Village Hall which has a nice room. We start on 25<sup>th</sup> January. Initial Contact: Lesley Newnham 845773.

**Days of Special Interest** - On Weds 15 February we will be going to The Bar Convent at York. On Weds 28 March it's a Backstage Tour of The Grand Theatre, Leeds and in April we are planning a visit to The Black Sheep Brewery, Masham.

**Spanish** - Spanish 2 meets on the 2<sup>nd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month 2.30 to 4.30. We share responsibility for the content of the session and we take it in turns to host the sessions in our homes.

**The new 'Ultra 10 - 15 miles' walking group** should be up and running soon, with the first walk proposed for Monday March 12<sup>th</sup>. The walks will be once a month on a rolling day. They will be organized with the same format as the Walking Extra Group. Sue Howard [sehowarduk@ntlworld.com](mailto:sehowarduk@ntlworld.com) 01937 520123 07808 584432

**Local History Group** - On February 14<sup>th</sup> Victor Hawkins will be repeating the excellent presentation about "Wetherby at War", which he did for the Wetherby Festival. Please come along if these subjects are of interest to you. We have room for new members.

**Camera Group 2** - I have been asked by John Wood to help with the Digital Camera Group. My experience covers many years from roll film through to digital photography and across a variety of related hardware and software embracing best principles of backing up, maintenance, etc. I will provide the introductory

aspects and with mastery of those you can move on to John Wood's Group to concentrate on the taking of the best photographs. Contact: Steven Wicks - [stevenbwicks@hotmail.com](mailto:stevenbwicks@hotmail.com)

**Singing for Fun** - The Group were asked by the Town Clerk, Barbara Ball, if we would sing on the Town Hall steps on 22 December 2011 and we were pleased to agree. We decided that it would be a good idea to sing for a charity and Martin House were very pleased to receive just over £85.00. We have many members and room for a few more.

**French for Beginners and Improvers** - Heureuse Nouvelle Année! This group works so well as a team and recently each member has provided the theme and materials for their session. We are fortunate to have a retired French teacher come along to some of our sessions. Inspector Clouseau and the policeman from 'Allo 'Allo have provided a reason for much laughter recently!

**Walking with Lunch Group** - We shall start again on Tuesday 7<sup>th</sup> February. As there are presently 50 active members in the Group, no new members can be taken on at the present time. A reserve/waiting list is being maintained, so please do not hesitate to contact Richard Thraves to register your interest.

**Family History Group** - Members recently revealed recent findings ranging from the discovery of an old photo of a family gathering (with names of all in the image) found in an old jig saw puzzle donated to a charity shop, to three members discovering that they may well have royalty in their family trees (the rest of us are now practicing our bows and curtsies). The next meeting will be on Friday 3<sup>rd</sup> February 10.00 – 12 noon in the St James Church meeting room.

**Walking Group Extra** - The December walk was a joint effort with Julia's 5-6 mile walkers; the January walk will have taken place and the next walk will be on Monday 27<sup>th</sup> February, led by Carol Pettifar at a place to be decided. Meet at Wetherby Leisure Centre at 9.15 for prompt departure at 9.30.

**Current Affairs Group** - Meetings are held in St James' Church rooms Wetherby at 2.30pm on the second Thursday of each month. Next meetings: 9 February. Baby Boomers. Have we pulled up the ladder after us? Sandra Ellen. 8 March. How are we going to keep the lights on? Gas, fracking, nuclear? Peter Baldwin.

**Historical Walking Group** - the winter/spring programme is on the web site and includes February 10 Ripon & Fountains Abbey (6 miles); March 9 Little Ribston & ancient Goldsborough (7 miles); April 13 Pateley Bridge - Yorke's Folly (7 miles).

**Painting Group 1** - Our resident artist, Barry Pickersgill has had to withdraw for family reasons and we would be very interested to hear from anyone who could offer artistic advice to the members. The Group is currently full with a short waiting list.

**Painting Group 2 (for beginners)** - This new group is already full with a short waiting list.

'Going for Green' - new group. Think global act local - consider and evaluate a range of local issues which have 'green' credentials or potential. Discussion will aim to be more 'hands on' than academic. Consider what falls within the green umbrella and how we define and put in place 'sustainable' practise. Visiting locations and projects locally which have 'green' perspectives will be an important part of the activities of the group. Contact Eric Cowin [ericcowin@hotmail.com](mailto:ericcowin@hotmail.com) 01937 581470.

**Scrabble Group** - The Scrabble Group is now full with 16 members. In future the 2<sup>nd</sup> Friday of the month will be held at Margaret Grant's home and on the 4<sup>th</sup> Friday at Alison Owen-Hughes home. If anyone wishes to start another group we will be happy for them to come along and see how we 'perform'.

**Sunday Lunch Group** - on 12<sup>th</sup> February the venue will be Wetherby Golf Club 12.00 for 12.30. Contact for this lunch is Cathy Oakes 01937 574484.

**Theatre Group** - Tickets have been reserved for the following shows:  
Sat Mar 3<sup>rd</sup> 7.45 BED at The Theatre Royal York (studios). Tickets £10 contact Clare Allen 01937 573687. Weds 21<sup>st</sup> March 7.45 STOMP at The York Opera House. Tickets £24 or £21.60 IF WE SELL 10 TICKETS. Last date for payment 15<sup>th</sup> Feb contact Velma Lazenby 01937 844304. Thurs 12<sup>th</sup> Apr 7.30 SISTER ACT at the Grand Theatre Leeds. Dress Circle tickets £40.50 or £35.50 if we can sell 10 tickets. Last date for payment 1<sup>st</sup> March. Contact Velma Lazenby.  
If you wish to go to any of the above please contact us soon. We like to go as a group to travel together which helps with parking and petrol costs.

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**NEW CONTACT DETAILS. If your details have changed please ensure that you have advised our Membership Secretary and the Leaders of any Groups with which you are connected.**

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*Monthly Memo is a Groups news update for ready reference whilst current information, Group Leaders' details and forms, etc., will be found on our website: [www.wetherbyU3A.org.uk](http://www.wetherbyU3A.org.uk) Copies of the Newsletters, Membership Application Forms and Monthly Memos are also in Wetherby and Boston Spa Libraries. Items for the next U3A publication may be sent at any time.*

**Forthcoming Meetings in 2012:** Wed 29 Feb – Speaker: Ken Humphries "The world of Andrew Lloyd Webber"; Thur 29 March; Tues 24 April. Please check the website [www.wetherbyU3A.org.uk](http://www.wetherbyU3A.org.uk) or libraries for details.

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| <b>U3A Wetherby contacts:</b>        | <b>Website:</b> | <b><a href="http://www.wetherbyU3A.org.uk">www.wetherbyU3A.org.uk</a></b>        |
| Chair: Mary Bentham                  | 587694          |                                                                                  |
| Groups Coordinator: Lesley Newnham   | 845773          | <a href="mailto:groupsU3AWAD@hotmail.co.uk">groupsU3AWAD@hotmail.co.uk</a>       |
| Deputy: David Mills                  | 541325          | <a href="mailto:dhvmills@btinternet.com">dhvmills@btinternet.com</a>             |
| Editor, Newsletters & Monthly Memos: |                 | <a href="mailto:newsU3Awetherby@hotmail.co.uk">newsU3Awetherby@hotmail.co.uk</a> |

>> The deadline date for all items is the 9<sup>th</sup> of each month.

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*Wetherby & District U3A. Registered Charity Number 1143289*