



Newsletter

NESTON U3A

January 2019

Visit to Quarry Bank Mill in Styal, Cheshire



On 5th October Doreen Higgins organized another of her splendid trips, this time to Quarry Bank Mill, near Manchester Airport. The property is owned by the National Trust and operated as a Museum of the Cotton Industry. The cleanliness of the site, set deep in a picturesque gorge, certainly created a favourable first impression. The party was split into two groups for a guided tour, on which we first saw manual spinning and weaving

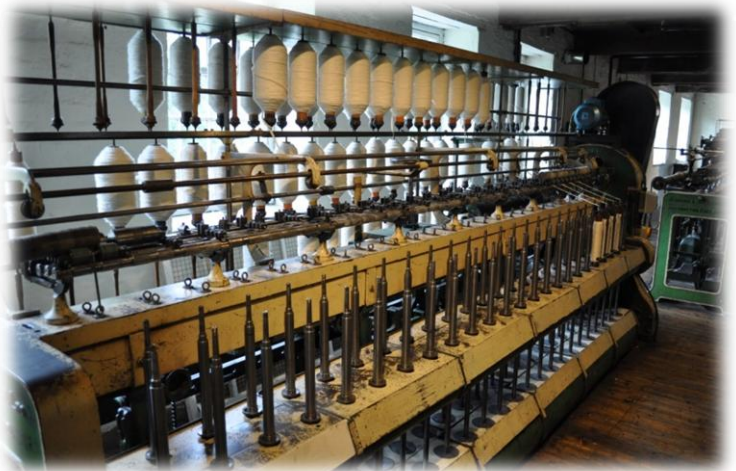
demonstrations from the pre-industrial revolution era. We were then shown into the mill where the belt-driven machinery, powered by the River Bollin, was started up for our benefit, following which we were given a short talk and inspection of the Apprentice House. The Mill was built by Samuel Greg in 1784 to capitalize on the new industrialised method of spinning, presumably with a



view to processing cotton from the family's plantations in the Caribbean. Initially, the finished thread was sold to independent weaving businesses, but the building was extended in the 1830's to permit the introduction of mechanised weaving plant in the same premises. When these ancient machines were started up the noise was incredible and one could understand why deafness was a common occurrence in the industry (and lung disease of course). The

Greg family built and occupied Quarry Bank House, adjacent to the factory on the banks of the picturesque river. They developed extensive, attractive gardens complete with a large greenhouse, all of which is open to visitors. Perhaps the only disappointing aspect is that the house is devoid of furniture and ornament, though it is used for an exhibition of the family's involvement with the Women's Franchise movement of the early 20th century. The on-site restaurant was up to the

usual high standard of the National Trust and the gift shop was exceptional in that it had for sale cloths and fabric made in the mill.



Altogether another interesting and instructive day out, thank you Doreen. **Geoff Gibson**



“Message from the Chair”

A Happy and Healthy New Year to you all. I am writing this on the first day of the New Year so we are still filled with enthusiasm to bring about changes to improve our lives and the lives of those around us, long may this optimism continue. Looking back over the last twelve months, Neston U3A has continued to attract new members with its' message of inclusion, enjoyment and of pursuing interests together, but wastage of existing members has been at the same rate, so membership has remained at about the same level. Some of that wastage is due to ill health or lack of mobility and I sometimes wonder whether our members offer enough assistance to help those unfortunate people - and what the committee could do to encourage such assistance - suggestions please! On the subject of the

committee, we could be losing as many as five of the present members, as some come to the end of their permitted term of office next April and others move away or have incurred family commitments. So we are looking to recruit several new committee members. I repeat my message from the last newsletter and particularly appeal to new members to put themselves forward, especially if you have some computer skills or general management experience or report writing and interpersonal communication ability. Generally speaking the duties are not onerous or very time-consuming, if we have enough members amongst whom we can distribute the workload evenly. Following our very successful Christmas activities I am encouraged to believe we will be able to find volunteers to keep the Neston U3A flourishing for many years yet. Apart from anything else it is an excellent way to get to know new people. Hope to see you at the next monthly meeting

Geoff Gibson



Poetry & Prose Group 3 FIRST WORLD WAR POETRY EVENING



On Wednesday, 7th November 2018, the Cheshire Rural Touring Arts organised a wonderful evening at Neston British Legion. Six members of Poetry Group 3 and their friends attended a narrative recital of words and music from the First World War entitled: "Never Such Innocence" which is a line from Philip Larkin's poem: MCMXIV (first published in 1964) where Larkin looks back on the First World War and writes of it as being the destruction of innocence and illusions. The narrative was performed by actor Christopher Kent and the music was performed by pianist Gamal Khamis and included works by Wilfred Owen, Edward Thomas, Siegfried Sassoon and Vera Brittain; with piano music by Elgar, Ravel, Debussy, Frank Bridge and Ivor Gurney.

Larkin's poem was about the many; the populace as a whole. Kent's narration, at heart, was about an individual: his great uncle, Percy O'Key (1896-1918). Percy's story was interwoven with those bitter, biting poems that we all studied at school: "They" by Sassoon and "Dulce et Decorum Est" by Owen. It was listening to them again, many years on from when I was a girl, juxtaposed with Percy's story and the commentary of facts and figures so poignantly used by Kent, that I felt an overwhelming sense of grief and sadness that was palpable in the room that, not just I, but everyone felt.

Kent skilfully took us through righteous anger at the insensitivity of Jessie Pope's "The Call" to the loss felt by Vera Brittan in her "Perhaps". Each section of the recital was sympathetically brought to a close by the skilful playing of Khamis which was a fitting way to mark the sections - which were not applauded as to do so seemed disrespectful. When the applause did come at the end, I know I wanted to weep for Percy, lost forever to his sisters and brothers to whom he'd written so cheerfully.

The usual adjectives are not suitable or sufficient to describe the experience of this evening. So I will simply say it was a privilege to have paid witness to Percy's story and to have heard those poems, which changed our perception of honour and war for ever, read once again with such respect and feeling. **Lesley Sutherland**

IN MEMORIAM



Geoff Spillane

Geoff Spillane, who died late last year after a short illness, was a well-known member of the Neston U3A. His technical knowledge of computers was a great asset to the group and his cheerful presence at monthly meetings was always welcome. However, Celia and I had known Geoff for several years before our association with the U3A. We first met Geoff as members of a social organisation called Nexus where he was well-known as a dancer! We used to call him 'Jiver' Geoff because he never missed an opportunity to attend a disco and dance. He was a most generous friend and will be missed by his many friends in the Neston U3A. **Michael Grumett**

WALKING GROUPS

'OVER TO YOU'



If you ask a group of school children for volunteers a sea of hands will shoot up even if they do not know what they are volunteering for! We 3rd agers are more circumspect if not downright suspicious of volunteering. So why was it that 6 years ago I volunteered to take over as leader of the walking group? I have to admit that it was partly due to self interest. No-one else had come forward and I really did not want the group to fold. The fact that I knew the group was sociable and lively helped. I also thought that they would be supportive and forgiving of my mistakes. As it turned out, this was just as well!



In December I asked the walking group if someone would take over from me. This is mainly due to personal circumstances but 6 years is long enough anyway. To my great delight there was not one but two volunteers. I am pleased to say that the new group leaders are Rosemary Hollingsbee and Hilary Eaude. It will be a great help to them if members are as generous as they have always been in offering to lead walks. I hope that Rosemary and Hilary will get as much pleasure from doing the job as I did - **Ann Taylor**
(Group Leaders - Rosemary Hollingsbee 336 3320 and Hilary Eaude 336 4082)



Speakers for our Winter and Spring 2019

Open U3A meetings

February 28th Brings us the welcome return of Derek Arnold, who will tell the story of HMS Wild Swan, the "Angry Duck" of Dunkirk. Derek is the son of Walter Arnold, one of only four survivors of the HMS Thetis tragedy of 1939. Derek talks are of particular interest to those keen on maritime or local history. of HMS Wild Swan, the "Angry Duck" of Dunkirk. Derek is the son of Walter Arnold, one of only four survivors of the HMS Thetis tragedy of 1939. Derek talks are of particular interest to those keen on maritime or local history.

March 28th Our speaker this month is June Corner, who is a popular local historian. Her talk "Naughty but Nice" gives the history of ladies' underwear. Be surprised! If anyone can find an hilarious angle to a talk then that lady is June Corner. June is renowned for her comic insight into ladies' knickers, so sit back and enjoy an informative and humorous talk.

April 25th Following our AGM, as a change to our programme, our speaker, Barry Humphreys instead of "Wonderous Wirral" will give us a "Musical Presentation of the Stories Behind some of the Beatles' most popular songs." In addition to being a performer under the name "Spartacus", Barry is a local historian and writer based in New Brighton. He was a script writer and narrator of two documentary films about New Brighton and appeared on local TV and radio. He is well known for his involvement in a variety of history and heritage projects.

Maureen Roberts - Speaker Secretary and Vice Chair



Antiques and Collectables

The title of the September meeting was 'Professions', in other words bring an object that you used at work and talk about it. Can you work out the profession?



1



2



3



1 - A pharmacist. Do you remember getting medicine in folded paper? This equipment was used to hold the paper so that the medicine could be added. Anne demonstrating how she used it.

2 - An antique dealer. It was only when it was opened up that the group knew what it was. In case you are still wondering-it's for cigarettes!

3 - A nurse. Pat was given this to wear on her head when she became a staff nurse. It was called a 'fancy'

Liz Marrs (336 3265 or email her on elizabethmarrs@hotmail.com)



Best of luck with this Sudoku



					5			1
	5						2	
				3	6		9	5
3					4	2		
4	7						1	9
		5	1					7
2	6		3	9				
	1						8	
9			2					





“You know, somebody actually complimented me on my driving today. They left a little note on the windscreen, it said ‘Parking Fine’ so that was nice.”

Our Christmas Social held on 6th December ‘18

“And a good time was had by one & all”



Winner of The 'Festive Hat' competition **Leslie Sutherland**



Our Wonderful Kitchen Helpers



The U3A Singing Group and Neston Strummers entertained us and Ann Taylor encouraged many members to take to the floor for some barn dancing. Many thanks go to Ann Bickerstaffe and her team of helpers for planning the event and providing the refreshments. The Strummers were pleased to receive donations for the Northern Lights Charity, raising £110.18 from U3A members taking their grand total so far to £10,000



**A sandwich walks into a bar. The barman says,
“Sorry, we don’t serve food in here”**



Help with Refreshments 2019

Each group is being asked to provide two members to help with refreshments at the monthly meeting. Duties include setting up, serving tea and clearing away. Ann Bickerstaffe contacts the group leader nearer the time of the meeting to receive names of helpers and provide any further information. The table below shows the groups being asked to provide helpers for next year. If your group can't provide helpers or can't do a particular month please find a replacement. All information can be found on our website. Thank you for your cooperation

Month	Group	Leader	Contact
January	Barn Dancing	Ann Taylor	327 4667
February	Craft	Joyce Seaton	342 4414
March	Cribbage	Michael Maden	336 8586
April	Cycling	Bob Kynaston	336 7729
May	Discussion	Liz Marrs	336 3265
June	Exploring Music	Alan Bradshaw	342 3587
July	Family History	Pat Rosser	342 2589
August	French	Michael Bell	336 3734
September	Gardening 1	No Group Leader	
October	Gardening 2	Pat Mann	342 2101
November	German Conversation	Annabel Dickson	327 5424
December	History	Liz Ledsham	336 4781



- Please let Pat Dix know (0151 342 4330)**
- **if any of our members are unwell or in hospital**
 - **if you change your email address or mobile phone number**

The next Newsletter is due to be published the end of May 2019

Closing date for contributions is Friday 10th May 2019.

Feedback welcomed but even more important is 'CONTENT'

so please let me have articles for inclusion -

Ann Roochove Email - annchovie@hotmail.com



The world tongue-twister champion just got arrested. I hear they're going to give him a really tough sentence

