

**Dear Member,**

**May:** Forgive me if, in friendship's way,  
I offer thee a wreath of May...  
Nourished by the dewes of heaven...  
So I have Ivy placed between,  
To prove that worth is ever green.  
The little blue Forget-me-not...  
Spring's messenger in every spot,  
Smiling on all—"Remember me!"  
*~John Clare*

### **May Speaker Meeting**

The monthly meeting is set for 2.00 pm on Tuesday 12<sup>th</sup> May at the Methodist Hall.

The speaker will be Philip Caine. He will talk about his working life and try to sell us his books.

Born in Barrow in Furness, Philip's working life began in the hotel business. Ten years later he took a position working on offshore oil rigs in the North Sea and began a career that spanned over thirty years operating projects across three continents.

The work took him to many remote and hazardous locations such as Algeria, West Africa, Kazakhstan & Russia.

The end of the Iraq War in 2003 took Philip to Baghdad, where he directed the operations and project management of multiple accommodation bases for the American Coalition.

This being the most challenging, hazardous & demanding of locations which required him to provide and deliver full support for over 30,000 troops on nine separate locations throughout Baghdad and Northern Iraq.

Signing up for an original six-month contract, Philip ending up working the project for almost seven years.

His career culminated in the Emirates where he ran a couple of oil services companies in Dubai, Qatar & Kuwait.

After working all over the world Philip returned to Barrow where he now lives with his family.

He began writing after retirement in 2015 and his first novel, *PICNIC IN IRAQ*, was published in summer 2015.

Since then there has been a further six novels in this exciting thriller series, TO CATCH A FOX; IN BEIRUT; THE HOLLOW PRESIDENT; AMERICAN RONIN; POSEIDONS RANSOM & SILK ROADS.

All Philip's novels are fictitious adventure thrillers inspired by his international career, especially his time in the Middle East.

Philip has recently released a new detective series featuring a brand new character, SHACKLETON BLISTER.

### **New Members' Coffee Morning**

A new members' coffee morning will take place on Thursday May the 7th from 10:00 am to 12 noon at the indoor Bowls Club on Birch Road, Louth.

All those who joined since last year's new member coffee morning should have received an invitation.

However, if you did not receive an invitation but you have never been to a new members coffee morning, you are welcome to come along.

### **The Committee**

The Committee members at the April meeting agreed that it would be helpful to have a Louth U3a publicity unit.

It was felt that not enough is currently done to promote our organisation outside of the existing membership and associates.

Such a unit would have a budget for posters, leaflets with forthcoming dates, photographs and even short videos, and pro-actively take the Louth U3a to such events as the forthcoming Friendship Festival, in which we participated last year to a very limited extent.

It is not anticipated that the publicity unit would automatically be part of the Committee and might even be one energetic individual with appropriate skills to run a Facebook page and Instagram account. If inspired, please contact any committee member.

Some members may have friends in other U3as who might want to take part in our groups. The charge for associate membership has been reduced from £11:50 to just £5 for the year.

Those interested should contact our Membership Secretary Shirley Poths at [shirleypoths@outlook.com](mailto:shirleypoths@outlook.com)

**Group Leaders** are still invited :

- (a) to use the opportunity of a speaker meeting each month to give a short (5 minutes) introduction to the nature and activity of their group.
- (b) to submit photographs of activities for our soon to be upgraded website.
- (c) to seek suggestions from members for activities which might need to be financially underwritten by U3A funds.

**How about this for an idea?**

Individual members in interest groups could (naturally with the consent of any people depicted or named) submit items of interest to the Committee by email, in person or for that matter by runner and cleft stick, for our website, pending and indeed after the creation of a publicity unit.

This would whet the appetites of all and sundry.

Whether bragging or just enlightening members, we can do more as members than just attend speaker meetings and read these updates, which to be honest I sometimes struggle to fill...

Patrick Purves

Still the Secretary for one final year

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