

# Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter



May/June 2011

Issue 2011/3

## Chairperson's Letter

(Tel: 277 5881)

Dear Friends

We are now at the end of another U3A membership year in which our numbers have risen yet again. I believe our success is due in a large part to having a committee which follows the lead of our founding members, and yet works hard to keep our group looking to the future.

I have just completed my first year as Chairman of a committee where each member carries their task both enthusiastically and competently - making the whole group run extremely smoothly. I am most grateful for all their support. I would like to offer our thanks to those who are now leaving the committee, especially Menna Carr who has been an exceptional secretary, and Pat Troake who has been responsible for finding and booking an interesting range of speakers for our monthly meetings.

I also wish to thank all the Group Leaders, who give willingly of their time and make our U3A such a success. Several new groups have started this year, and we welcome the prospect of more in the future. We have a reputation now for being a friendly, thriving, welcoming and popular U3A.

Some of our members who were 'in at the beginning' are now feeling that perhaps it is time to take a less prominent role in the running of their groups and so we sincerely thank Shirley Taylor (Archaeology) and Mavis Sanders (Cards for Fun) for all their work as Group Leaders over many years.

I would like also to thank Josie Adcock and Penny Mount who have just retired from their roles in the Parish Council office. They have always been very supportive to the U3A and have now joined our numbers.

Our big project this year has been the development of our new Countesthorpe U3A Website on which June Hawkins and Barry Hillyard have worked for several months. We have aimed to give a comprehensive and professional view of Countesthorpe U3A and hope that members will enjoy using the site.

Best wishes

*Ursula Wild -*

*Chairperson(Chairperson)*

Countesthorpe



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## DIARY DATES: May/June 2011

Date	Group	Activity	Venue/time
10 May	Monthly Meeting AGM	Home Grown Talents!	Village Hall from 1.30 pm (speaker 2.15 pm)
16 May	Creative Writing	How U3A has changed my life (or anything of your choice)	2.00 pm Brook Court
17 May	SWANS	Fosse Meadows	FM car park 10.30 am
18 May	Literature	A Week in December by Sebastian Faulks	2.00 pm Brook Court
19 May	Travel	Bury St Edmunds	8.00 am from Village Hall
19 May	Photography	Architecture (bring 2 prints)	6.30 pm Methodist Room
20 May	CHEWS	Controlled Healthy Eating with Support	Marlene's – from 9.15 am
23 May	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
27 May	Discussion	'The Value of Looking Back'	Ruth Westley's - 10.00 am
3 June	CHEWS	Controlled Healthy Eating with Support	Mary Harvey's frm 9.15 am
7 June	SWANS	Kilworth House Hotel Grounds	Hotel car park: 10.30 am
13 June	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
14 June	Monthly Meeting	Tales from a Dairy Farmer's Wife <i>Jane Barnes</i>	Village Hall from 1.30 pm (speaker 2.15 pm)
15 June	Literature	Anything by Phillipa Gregory	2.00 pm Brook Court
16 June	Travel	London: The Olde Palace Quarter (Guided walk)	9.00 am from Village Hall
21 June	SWANS	Foxton Locks (Anniv Lunch)	Top car park: 10.30 am
24 June	Discussion	Society's reaction to those who have their faces covered in public	Liz Merrall's: 10 am - noon

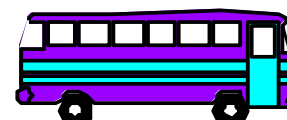
### CHANGE TO NEWSLETTER SCHEDULE

The next Newsletter will be in August, NOT July, and will continue bi-monthly thereafter as usual.  
(August, October, December, February, April, June)

## GROUP LEADER CHANGES

After more than ten years leading Archaeology and Cards for Fun, Shirley Taylor and Mavis Sanders are hanging up their Group Leader badges. We thank them both very sincerely for all their efforts and for the pleasure they have given to so many members over the years.

Each will receive a special certificate and vouchers as a token of our gratitude. (I suspect that Shirley will still be organising the occasional Archaeology visit, though!)



## TRAVEL

### Thursday, 19 May:

Day trip to **Bury St Edmunds** - a nice little town with an old quarter and a ruined abbey. The old abbey church became the parish church and is now the cathedral - the tower only being completed for the millennium. Cost £20 including guided tour. Departing from Village Hall at 8 am, returning by 8 pm.

*For further details, call Barry on 277 4187*

**CONTRIBUTIONS** are always needed for What's On, the Newsletter and now, our website. I really do rely on your help in providing me with information about your group's activities or any future plans. Just email or phone, or put a note through my door; I am happy to edit for you.

### **Latest copy dates**

- Tuesday, 7 June, for the June issue of What's On and website update
- Tuesday, 5 July for July issue of What's On and website update
- Tuesday, 2 Aug for next Newsletter (Aug/Sept), August What's On and website update

*Editor: June Hawkins (tel) 277 6330, (email) [jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net) or my address is: 30 Marston Crescent, Countesthorpe, LE8 5PY.*

## FOLK DANCING

We dance on two Mondays a month between 2 and 3.30 pm – just bring comfortable shoes and a sense of humour, please, to our next meetings in the Countesthorpe Village Hall on 23 May and 13 June

Please check with me (Patsy) for dates in July and August, but we will gather sometimes in those months as I do need the exercise! Ian and I were away at a Folk Dance Festival over Easter weekend so be warned - my mind and notebooks are full of new dances and different ways of persuading dancers to go the way the dance needs them to go. New members are always very welcome so do give us a try.



*Details from Patsy Paterson on 277 6259*

## NEW COUNTSTHORPE U3A WEBSITE GOES LIVE!

**[www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk](http://www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk)**

As you may know, June and Barry have been working with a local web developer to provide a website that we believe will be very successful in increasing access to information about our U3A and all that is on offer, as well as providing lots of items of interest.

This will be our official website and replace the one produced by the Computer group – which will remain in use as a ‘learning’ vehicle.

As well as the basic information about our U3A, there will be a very comprehensive ‘What’s On’ section, pages for each Activity Group, ways to make contact with us, and access to lots of pictures including many from recent events. See also the STOP PRESS on the homepage.

An archive to include recollections from the early days of our U3A, and past Newsletters has been started, and will be an ongoing development. If any member has anything they would like to contribute to the archive, please contact June: E: [jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net), or tel: 277 6330.

But be assured that the printed bi-monthly Newsletter and the monthly update ‘What’s On’ (*Marketplace*) will continue just as usual, though!

## A NEW GROUP IS STARTING!

**Social Occasions** is a new initiative, and will be led by Pat Baker. The aim is to provide a range of different social activities at a local venue. Most events will cost just £3, and will start at 7.30 pm, normally on either a Monday, a Wednesday or a Friday evening. The first three events (with cash prizes!) will be held in the Concert Room of the Countesthorpe Conservative Club, and details are as follows:

23 May	Whist Drive
20 July	Quiz
15 August	Bingo



Watch for details of all the 'Social Occasions' in the monthly 'What's On', the Newsletter and on the website.

*Details from Pat Baker on 247 7648*

## Taking a Summer Holiday!

**ETHNIC DINING** will re-start in September – date and venue to be announced later

**SCRABBLE** will also take a break, re-starting on 7 September – usual time and place

**ART** group meets in Audrey's garden until end of Sept

**SINGING FOR FUN** – 18 May, then 1<sup>st</sup> and 3<sup>rd</sup> Weds

## CORNISH CREAM!

True to form, Jenny provided the cream of the weather for our week in Cornwall in April! We had a bit of a false start, with an hour's delay in Bumble Bee Lane, due to a road closure following an accident, but thereafter made good time and arrived at Cotehele, just inside Cornwall in good time to see the manor, and the grounds and sample the refreshments! Then it was on to our hotel – the Cliffhead – at Carlyon Bay, near St Austell and right on the coastal path.

Our first (gentle!) day was to Lanhydrock Gardens, which were magnificent and, together with the charming mansion which had been restored to show Victorian country life, made a lovely day.

The second day saw us visiting the Lost Gardens of Heligan, where we extended our visit after a most interesting guided walk. After lunch, we saw the sea at both Mevagissey and Fowey.

Day three was our visit to St Ives, with a chance to pay quick visits to the Tate Gallery and/or Barbara Hepworth's Studio and Sculpture Garden, or just take in the beach and the town. Afterwards, we called at Trebah Gardens – beautiful, and quite different from Lanhydrock and Heligan – offering a pleasant walk down to a small beach.

On the following morning we paid a short visit to Trelissick Gardens, before moving on to Falmouth. The main choices were a visit to the National Maritime Museum, or the short ferry ride to St Mawes, or just exploring the town.

The fourth day was spent on the northern coast, visiting Padstow with its picturesque harbour, shops and National Lobster Hatchery. Then it was on to Tintagel with a lovely walk/ride to Tintagel Haven or seeing the tiny NT property – The Old Post Office. Then we returned across Bodmin Moor, with a quick call at the Jamaica Inn (of Daphne du Maurier's book fame) where we saw the interesting museum and extensive giftshop.

The last day of our stay was free (as the coach driver had to have a day off!). Some went to the Eden Project – Jenny arranged a private coach for them. Others went to Truro, visiting the cathedral or hitting the shops one last time.

Then, sadly, it was goodbye to pasties, Cornish cream teas and ice creams as our return journey, with a short lunch stop at Gloucester Docks, brought us safely back to Countesthorpe after a wonderful, sunny (and packed!) week. We now just need a holiday to recover!

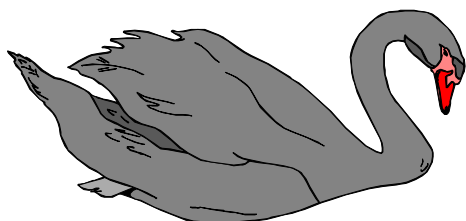
It was a reminder, yet again, of how friendly and easy-going our members are, with everyone mixing and enjoying themselves together. The seat rotation on the coach worked well, and it was good to move tables for meals in the hotel, as well, so that everyone got to know new people. The sense of camaraderie and fun would be hard to beat!

Thank you, Jenny, once again for all the hard work you put in behind the scenes to make it so enjoyable and run so smoothly. Here's to the next!

*(Photos are available via the new website)*

*June Hawkins*

## SWANS



The current programme is available from Pamela, and for those who have access, it also appears on the website. (*Go to Activity Groups – Swans is the last one; click on the picture, and then click on the picture of a swan with cygnets!*). While you're there, also see Shirley's pictures!

Our **Anniversary Lunch** will be combined with our walk at Foxton Locks on 21 June (meet at the top car park at 10.30 am). Please give your names and menu choices to Pamela (or Shirley) as soon as possible!

*Details from Pamela on 277 2653 (6-7 pm) or Shirley on 277 3826*

## ART GROUP NEWS

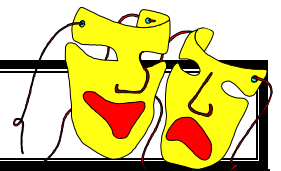
During the summer months we will paint in Audrey's garden at 13 Linden Avenue, and revert to the Methodist Room from 6 October. Usual times.

**19 July – Misterton Hall** visit, from about 10.30 am. Bring your own picnic. Everyone, walkers and non-painters, are welcome to join us!

**18 August – Bradgate Park** (Newtown Linford entrance) between about 10.30 am – 3.30 pm. Come along and join us as we paint in the park!

*Details from Margaret Woolley on 277 3510*

# THEATRE PROGRAMME



Date	Play	Cost	Venue	Leaving Village Hall	Pay by
Tues 17 May	My Mother Said I Never Should	£16	Market Harborough	6.45 pm	12 Apr
Mon 20 June	Pride and Prejudice	£23	Tolethorpe (+ £20 buffet)	4.45 pm	12 Apr
Wed 13 July	Alarms and Excursions	£24	Milton Keynes (DAY OUT)	9.30 am	10 May
Thurs 22 Sept	Warhorse	£49	London	TBA	8 Mar
Wed 19 Oct	South Pacific	£37	Milton Keynes (2.30 pm)	12.45 pm	10 May
Thurs 17 Nov	Strictly Gershwin	£28	Milton Keynes (2.00 pm)	12 noon	12 Sept
Thurs 8 Dec	42 <sup>nd</sup> Street	£28	Curve	6.15 pm (TBC)	8 Mar

**PRIDE AND PREJUDICE:** Jane Austen's witty book, adapted for the stage by Simon Reade, pokes fun at the affectations and etiquette of Regency times.

**ALARMS & EXCURSIONS:** Eight miniature plays differing in length and topic by Michael Frayn (from the idiocies of flight safety demonstrations to an affluent but nightmarish dinner party, interrupted by all manner of gadgets). Comforting proof that we are not the only victims of modern technology!

**WAR HORSE:** Audience review: *'I went to see War Horse and it was amazing. The story is so moving. The cast were awesome. The puppets were brilliant too, the way they did everything like real horses!'*

**SOUTH PACIFIC:** Winner of 8 Tony Awards, this lavish production reinvents the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein show.

**STRICTLY GERSHWIN:** A dazzling celebration of George Gershwin, the Big Band era and Hollywood musicals. Gershwin's sassy tunes combine with the sensational choreography to conjure up the silver screen glamour of Fred Astaire and Ginger Rogers. Front seats in the Upper Circle.

**42<sup>nd</sup> STREET:** the inspiring story of small-town girl Peggy Sawyer and her meteoric rise from chorus line hooper to Broadway star.

*June Hawkins – tel: 277 6330 or email: [jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net)*