

# Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter



June-July 2012

Issue 2012/3

## Chairperson's Letter

(Tel: 277 4187)

Dear Friends

This is my first newsletter as your chairman and it is also the start of our twelfth year with many activities ongoing. When I talk to people outside the U3A about the organisation they often groan at the thought of writing essays and doing homework. There are some U3As like that – I think of ours as more the student union side – fun and games, sometimes with a serious purpose behind them - but not always.

We all have a contribution to make to the development of *our* U3A – it does not just happen – there are many who keep the groups going from week to week for which we are all very grateful.

You will receive this on or about 12<sup>th</sup> June. What happened today in the past?

**1812** – Napoleon Bonaparte made a big mistake – he invaded Russia.

**1896** – J T Hearne set a cricket record for the earliest date of taking 100 first-class wickets.

**1942** – Ann Frank was given a diary on her birthday.

And, for those of a certain age, in **1934** Robert Moog was born. (“Who’s he?” you ask – we owe our electronic music to him and his successors.)

I look forward to the continued success of our U3A as we continue learning and playing.

From

*Barry Hillyard*  
*Chairperson*

Countesthorpe



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## DIARY DATES: June-July 2012

Date	Group	Activity	Venue/time
13 June	Flower Arranging		Small Lounge, 2-4 pm
14 June	Ethnic Dining	Cini – High St, Enderby	For 12.30 pm
15 June	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Shirley's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
17 June	Solo Lunch	Cosby Golf Club	Noon for 12.30 pm
18 June	Creative Writing	Themes: Language or Guilt	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
19 June	SWANS	North Kilworth Trail, followed by Anniversary Lunch	10.30 am at Kilworth Springs
21 June	Photography		6.30 – 8.00 pm Methodist School Room
20 June	Literature	The Tortilla Curtain <i>(by T C Boyle)</i>	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
22 June	Discussion	"Newspapers – will it matter if they go out of business?"	Liz Merrall's home; 10 am - noon
28 June	Walking	5 miles from the Golden Shield, Fleckney + lunch	9.30 am from Village Hall
3 July	SWANS	Bosworth Park	10.30 am in car park
9 July	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
10 July	Art	Painting at Misterton Hall	From 10.30 am 26 July
10 July	Monthly Meeting	There's More to Leicester than Cheese <i>(by Caroline Roberts)</i>	Village Hall from 1.30 pm (‘speakers’ 2.15 pm)
11 July	Flower Arranging		Small Lounge, 2-4 pm
16 July	Creative Writing	Theme TBA	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
17 July	SWANS	East Carlton Park	10.30 am in car park
18 July	Literature	"Death Comes to Pemberley" by P D James	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
23 July	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
26 July	Annual Outing	Twycross Zoo	9.15 am from Village Hall
26 July	Walking	Details to follow	
27 July	Discussion	TBA	TBA

## **KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN'T GET TO MEETINGS?**

If you do, then perhaps you would be kind enough to take them a copy of the monthly What's On and the bi-monthly Newsletter. There are always spare copies in the display stands in the lobby.

Also, Group Leaders are encouraged to take a few copies for people in their groups who do not come to the monthly gatherings, so that they are kept up to date with what's happening and can join in if they wish.

## **U3A GET WELL CARDS**

If you know of anyone in the U3A who is ill and who would appreciate a 'Get Well Soon' card from friends in the U3A, then please telephone Sheila Holmes on 277 2131 with the details.

## **The U3A Phone**

Some of you may be aware that we have a generic mobile phone number for the U3A which appears on our website. This is primarily to protect the privacy of individual group leaders by *not* publicising their own phone numbers on the website. (The generic phone number is 07901 548576)

However, if you need to know whether a group is meeting on a particular day you would do better to ring the group leader because:

- The person responsible for answering this generic phone is very unlikely to know the details of any particular group, and
- The phone is only checked first thing in the morning, usually about 7.15 am, so anything pertaining to that day after that time will not be picked up in sufficient time to reply.

Alternatively, if you have internet access, try checking the website which is usually up to date, or otherwise refer to the current issue of What's On and/or the latest coloured Group Activities List.

## VISIT TO CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA

Well, the weather seemed a bit grey after a couple of sunny days as we wandered up to the village hall but everyone was prompt and we were on our way almost before the official start time of 9.30 am, as we were learning that June and Jenny were unable to be with us after all.

We made good time to Moreton-in-Marsh and stopped just beyond there for a welcome coffee break, then arrived at the Villa car park as the sun was breaking through the mists turning everywhere into a sunny Cotswold scene. One of the National Trust ladies was on hand to welcome us we were whisked through the formalities of paying for non members and split into groups to make it easier to follow the guided tour. Those who had eaten the enormous scones with our coffee opted to tour first and eat later -so we gathered together to meet Mike our guide. He was fascinating and had so much to tell us he asked to be warned to stop so he could attend to our second group - but not before he answered all our questions with even more up to date facts!



When I almost trod on a Roman Snail and shouted in amazement - it was very large - he stopped mid-sentence and rushed the group over to study the specimen and explain a little more about how well they have survived over the centuries. My favourite corner of the estate was the shrine near where we found that aforementioned snail, whom

we met later about a couple of feet away from that initial place, presumably taking his afternoon stroll, and we also enjoyed sitting eating our lunch under a canopy watching a pair of martins feeding their young.

There was lots of time for another snack, some delicious ice cream and a look round the little shop and we all pottered round the remains we hadn't actually toured and admired the garden and the grounds -what a wonderful setting for the estate!

Thank you June for making all the arrangements, and Barry for looking after us on the day - and roll on the next outing!

*Patsy Paterson*

## FOLK DANCING

We will be dancing in Countesthorpe Village Hall on Monday, 11 June and then having a break until 9 and 23 July!



Everyone is welcome to come and give us a try - we dance between 2 and 3.30 and aim to be friendly and welcoming and to learn some English country dancing with occasional tasters of other kinds of folk dance.

Please come with comfortable shoes, layers of clothing so you don't get too hot - and a good sense of humour!

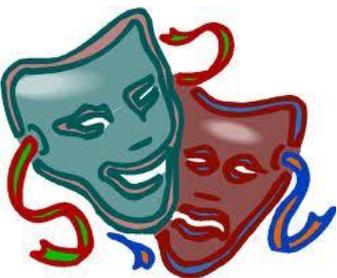
*Details from Patsy Paterson on 277 6259*

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

Our official website gives the basic information about our U3A, plus a very comprehensive 'What's On' section, pages for each Activity Group (some of which change regularly to include reports on recent events, or other items), ways to make contact with us, and access to lots of pictures including many from outings and holidays. See also the STOP PRESS on the homepage for up-to-the minute news. You can also download the current Newsletter and a printed version of What's On in case you couldn't get to the monthly meeting.

News/changes to: email: [jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net) or tel: 277 6330, or to 30 Marston Crescent, Countesthorpe.

Please be assured that the printed bi-monthly Newsletter and the monthly update 'What's On' (*Marketplace*) will continue just as usual!



## PLAY READING

Don't forget that this recently-established group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 2-4 pm, at different homes. You're most welcome to join us if you have an interest in this activity.

*For details, contact Joan Burn on 277 5369*

# Springtime in Paris!

The U3A visit to Paris (1-5 May) organised by Jenny was a huge success, in spite of a last-minute hiccup when East Midlands trains decided to hold a strike on the day of our departure! So Jenny organised for Robinson's coaches to take us down to St Pancras International, instead of dropping us at London Road station. We arrived in good time for a bite to eat before boarding the Eurostar service direct to Gare du Nord in Paris. After an excellent journey we made our way to the Ibis hotel, conveniently situated close to the Gare de l'Est, and settled into our rooms.



On the first morning, we enjoyed a guided coach tour of the main tourist sites of Paris, which enabled us to get our bearings, as well as an insight into the sheer volume of traffic in the city! This was followed by a one-hour river cruise, leaving the rest of our time to spend according to our own preferences.

Among the many places enjoyed by group members were l'Arc de Triomphe and the Champs Elysées, the Eiffel tower and the Trocadero, Notre Dame cathedral, Saint Chappelle, the Tuileries gardens and Place de la Concorde, the Pigalle and Montmartre districts and Sacré Cœur, as well as several of the various museums and galleries. We

enjoyed sampling the local wines and food at the various local restaurants for our evening meals - and then spent a lot of time walking off those calories!

Before departure, Barry had provided a mine of information on the local travel tickets and he also led a small party to the extravagant Palace of Versailles on Friday. The weather that day was mixed, but the rain generally held off long enough for us to enjoy the elegant gardens as well as a tour of the sumptuous inside of the Palace before making our way back to Paris.

Our return journey went without a hitch and we returned safely to Countesthorpe, many of us feeling rather exhausted but with lots of wonderful Parisian memories and pictures. Many thanks to Jenny for organising it all, and to Barry for his support as well. To see a few more pictures just go to our website ([www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk](http://www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk)) and then click on the link under 'Springtime in Paris' on the home page.

*June Hawkins*

## THE OLYMPIC TORCH

The amazing tradition of the Olympic torch began 2000 years ago in Greece. Over the centuries, through times of war, plague, climate change, conquests and altered national boundaries this tradition of carrying the torch from Athens to wherever the games were held, continued to triumph and inspire. What hope it has given to a troubled world.

From country to country, over land and sea, the flame is transported by youthful athletes to all corners of the globe.

Except that it is not true!

What is troubling is that people believe it *is* true.

Educated people, people with history degrees and people with normal common sense believe it to be true. We have all been brain washed. The human mind is not free.

At the Berlin games of 1936 Joseph Goebbels, Hitler's propaganda tsar, came up with the idea of promoting Aryanism by using a torch made by the arms manufacturer Krupp.



*By Mary D Essinger*

## JUBILEE TEA

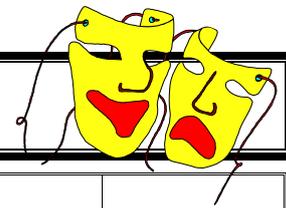
Around seventy U3A members enjoyed a Jubilee Tea in the Village Hall on Sunday, 3 June to celebrate this once-in-a-lifetime event. The Hall was transformed with bunting, and the tables were gaily decorated with Jubilee-ware complemented by stunning red, white and blue flower arrangements.

Barry Hillyard, as our new Chairperson, opened proceedings with a short speech after which we all stood for the National Anthem before sitting down to enjoy bridge rolls, scones with jam and cream followed by assorted cakes.

Around £200 was raised which will be divided between LOROS and Rainbows Hospice. Thanks to all those who donated cakes and scones, and to the small sub-committee and their helpers on the day who made it all an enjoyable way to commemorate the Queen's Diamond Jubilee.

Pictures available through link from our website's home page!

# THEATRE PROGRAMME



Tues 3 July	Lord Arthur Savile's Crime	£16	Market Harborough	6.45 pm	8 May
Wed 26 Sept	The Mousetrap	£30	Milton Keynes	12.30 pm	10 July
Oct	TBA as local theatres have not released autumn programmes yet.				
Tues 20 Nov	Phantom of the Opera	£50	Milton Keynes	12.30 pm	10 July
Tues 11 Dec	Hello, Dolly!	£18	Curve	6.30 pm	14 Aug

**LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME:** Based on the story by Oscar Wilde. Lord Arthur is told by a fortune teller that he will commit a murder. Being a gentleman, he resolves to do the deed before his marriage to Sybil. But if it can go wrong, then it will! (MHDS)

**THE MOUSETRAP.** The Jubilee tour of this long-running Agatha Christie favourite. Good circle seats at Milton Keynes and the usual convenient coach travel.

**HELLO, DOLLY!** Packed with show-stopping tunes, this bold musical extravaganza will start your Christmas season with a bang!

**PHANTOM OF THE OPERA:** Andrew Lloyd Webber's spectacular and long-running favourite musical goes on tour.

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

**SORRY, DUE TO ZUMBA CLASSES THERE IS NO PARKING AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY EVENINGS – AFFECTING 'LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME', 'PHANTOM' and 'HELLO, DOLLY!' THE COACH WILL PICK UP AT THE LEYS, THE VILLAGE HALL AND THE SQUARE – TRY PARKING IN CO-OP OR CENTRAL ST CAR PARK (FREE AFTER 6 PM)**

## Latest copy dates for your contributions!

- Wed, 4 July for July issue of What's On and website
- Wed, 8 August for the August What's On, Newsletter and website

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