

Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter



Aug-Sept 2012

Issue 2012/4

Chairperson's Letter

(Tel: 277 4187)

Dear Friends

Even if your “summer” time is going “swimmingly” I hope you are enjoying whatever comes your way – rain or shine!

In the last few days I have been reading “500 Beacons” – a history of the development of U3A in Britain by Eric Midwinter, one of the founding trio. One of the other two was Michael Young who also founded the Consumer Association (Which Magazine) and had a hand in the foundation of the Open University. The third founder was Peter Laslett who was adamant that people of the third age should not be subservient to authority but should organise their own affairs.

An interesting statistic that shows to a large extent what has happened demographically over the years was given:

- In 1900 the U.K. population was 41 million and 156,000 people died before the age of one.
- In 1990 the U.K. population was 57 million and 128,000 people died before the age of . . . 65!

So the increase of those of the third age is simply that more (*a lot more*) are surviving their first year. By and large, the life of humans was always 60 – 80 *if they got past 5 years of age*. You might like to consider the reasons for the changes in infant mortality.

From

*Barry Hillyard
Chairperson*

Countesthorpe
U3A
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

DIARY DATES: Aug-Sept 2012

Date	Group	Activity	Venue/time
14 Aug	Monthly Meeting	Living in a Medieval Village <i>Speaker: Gareth King</i>	Village Hall from 1.30 pm ('speakers' 2.15 pm)
17 Aug	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Lesley's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
19 Aug	Solo Lunch	Cosby Golf Club	Noon for 12.30 pm
21 Aug	SWANS	Crow Mills walk	10.30 am in car park
23 Aug	Archaeology	Cresswell Crags	9.30 am from Village Hall
24 Aug	Discussion	Gay marriage – right or wrong?	10 am at Shirley's home
30 Aug	Walking (CARE)	5 miles from The Holly Bush, Ashby Parva, optional lunch	9.30 am from Village Hall
4 Sept	SWANS	Abbey Park Canalside walk	10.30 am in St Margaret's Pastures car park
10 Sept	Folk Dancing		Village Hall 2 – 3.30 pm
11 Sept	Monthly Meeting	Working as a Street Pastor <i>Speaker: Monica Winfield</i>	Village Hall from 1.30 pm ('speakers' 2.15 pm)
12 Sept	Flower Arranging		Village Hall 2 – 4 pm
16 Sept	Solo Lunch	Venue TBA	Noon for 12.30 pm
17 Sept	Creative Writing	Theme: Place	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
18 Sept	SWANS	Thornton Reservoir	10.30 am in car park
19 Sept	Literature	Summer Reading choices	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
21 Sept	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Shirley's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
21 Sept	Archaeology	Mountsorrel Railway Project – track-bed walk (2 miles)	1.10 pm from Village Hall, in shared cars
24 Sept	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
25 Sept	SWANS	Planning Meeting	Glebe Garden Centre
27 Sept	Walking (CARE)	Approx 5 miles, details TBA	Leave 9.15/9.30 am from Village Hall
28 Sept	Discussion	Should we have the right to die?	From 10 am at June's home

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.

METAL DETECTING GROUP

A new group has been proposed – metal detecting – which is quite a departure from anything the U3A has offered before! We already have names of a few people who are interested, but more are needed to make the group viable.

If you might be interested, please ring Marlene on 277 9162 (preferably in the evening) and, subject to sufficient interest, she will arrange a meeting to decide how best to take this idea forward and establish this new activity group.



JULY'S WALK WITH THE C.A.R.E. GROUP

The July walk from The Wharf Inn at Welford was led by Chris Grooms with support from Roger, a friend and member of Market Harborough U3A

There were twenty-four walkers, including one new member. The first part of the walk was along the Grand Union Canal (Welford Branch) towpath. On reaching the junction with the main canal, we turned south crossing the aqueduct and the county boundary into Northamptonshire. After approximately half a mile we left the towpath, following the bridleway onto Hall Lane. On nearing Welford we left this lane, crossing the fields passing the still visible medieval fish pond and returned to the Wharf through the Welford Pocket Park. This is a small crescent-shaped roadside wet meadow with the River Avon as its northern boundary and has a boardwalk over the wetter areas.



Note: There are 5 countryside walks that start and finish at the Wharf ranging from 2-8 miles.

FOLK DANCING

We will be gathering for some not-too-serious folk dancing on Mondays, 10 and 24 September with, as ever, the emphasis on English Country Dancing with various other styles to enjoy from time to time.



Everyone is welcome, so come along with your comfortable shoes and a smile to Countesthorpe Village Hall between 2 pm and 3.30 pm

Details from Patsy Paterson on 277 6259

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 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!

U3A 2013 DIARIES

With smart blue cover, ribbon page marker and perforated corners as well as notes pages, this is an essential to ensure you don't miss any of our activities!

Price remains unchanged at £2- available from Sue at the desk

What a Year!

What with the Queen's Jubilee and the London 2012 Olympics, it has been quite a year, and the Paralympics are still to come! The weather hasn't been at its kindest, and did its best to wash out the River Pageant and a good few street parties. But overall it was a wonderful celebration and really did seem to bring together all corners of the country.

Amazingly, the Olympics did not seem to be too badly affected, in spite of a downpour for the ladies' marathon, and a lack of wind on some occasions for the sailors. The Torch Relay was a marathon in itself, but gave wonderful memories to so many people all over the country; and then there was the quirky opening ceremony – including Mr Bond with the Queen, and the celebration of our unique NHS. I guess one had to be a Brit to fully 'get it', but it seemed to receive worldwide approval.

Team GB have done us all proud, exceeding the Beijing medal count, and even folk with usually little interest in sport seem to have 'caught the bug' and enjoyed the competition, sharing in all the triumphs and disappointments. How many people have suddenly become 'armchair experts' in sports that they would not normally care about, and cried with the winners and commiserated with the losers? How many of us have marvelled at horses 'dancing' in the dressage, men and women giving their all on the land and water, on bikes and horses, in boats or boxing rings, with 'bats' and balls or simply running, jumping and throwing? I've been amazed at the supreme dedication shown by all those who take part, including their support teams. Also the great coverage by the BBC and the photography in the newspapers has been simply stunning. I confess to square eyes and a rather flattened backside! Hopefully some of us, and especially our youngsters, will be motivated to become more active, and that will be a lasting legacy of the Games.

So, after all the excitement, it would be easy to feel a little 'flat' – but never fear, the U3A is here! After the summer break, when a number of our groups have had a rest, the whole list of them is about to spring back into action, and we can resume our favourite activities – whether active or more sedentary. It's good to have a break, but it's also nice to get back to a normal routine and enjoy the company of our fellow members again! The break can help us to appreciate the benefits we derive from our U3A and our hard working Group Leaders, so thank you to all of them for their marathon efforts – they deserve gold medals!

June Hawkins

ARCHAEOLOGY

Our next visit is to Cresswell Crags in Nottinghamshire, where we will have an opportunity to enjoy the exhibitions (and the cafe!) in the modern visitor centre, as well as two cave tours and walks in the locality. Coach leaves Village Hall at 9.30 am on 23 August and cars can be left at the very rear of the car park.

A guided walk of the trackbed at the Mountsorrel Railway Project will be available on Friday afternoon, 21 September. This walk was recently included in the Festival of Archaeology, and our U3A was approached with an offer of a private walk for our members. We'll make our own way to Swithland Railway Sidings for 2 pm before undertaking the 2 mile walk. Stout shoes are recommended, and the £3 fee goes to the Project.

Barry is arranging a visit by coach to the County Town of Huntingdon, birth place of Oliver Cromwell, on Thursday, 18 October. Assuming we get 25 people, the cost will be £14.

For Mountsorrel walk and Huntingdon visit, add your name to the lists in the small lounge, or contact June on 277 6330 or by email ([jhawkins45 @talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net)).

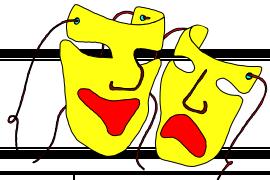
Shirley is hoping to arrange a visit to Welford Road Cemetery in November – more details to follow.

If you have any suggestions for future events/activities and if you would like to offer to organise one, please contact June.

CORRECTION

In the last Newsletter, thanks were extended incorrectly to Barry for overseeing the Chedworth Roman Villa trip in June's absence. The acknowledgement should have gone to Ruth Westley, who kindly stepped in at extremely short notice. Apologies to Ruth!

THEATRE PROGRAMME



Wed 26 Sept	The Mousetrap	£30	Milton Keynes	12.30 pm	10 July
Tues 30 Oct	Steel Magnolias	£16	Market Harborough	6.45 pm	11 Sept
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
Thurs 31 Jan	Sleeping Beauty	£25	Milton Keynes	12.30 pm	11 Dec

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

STEEL MAGNOLIAS: A heart-warming and bittersweet comedy, set in a hairdressing salon which tells the story of six very special friends bonded together by triumphs and tragedies

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

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

SLEEPING BEAUTY: Matthew Bourne's modern interpretation of this favourite ballet completes his 'Tchaikovsky trio'.

June Hawkins – tel: 277 6330 or email: jhawkins45@talktalk.net

SORRY, DUE TO ZUMBA CLASSES THERE IS NO PARKING AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY EVENINGS – AFFECTING 'STEEL MAGNOLIAS', '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, 5 Sept for July issue of What's On and website
- Wed, 3 Oct for the August What's On, Newsletter and website

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