

Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter



Apr-May 2013

Issue 2013/2

Chairperson's Letter

(Tel: 277 4187)

Dear Friends

While you are reading this we (Pat, Janet, Jenny and I) are in Normandy spending the day in the port of Honfleur. This was a trip planned when we thought early spring would be a nice time to visit the area. Well, we might as well look round foreign parts in the cold as stay at home and be miserable in the cold!

It could be worse. I remember the Sunday evening before the start of the summer term in 1974 sitting by a lovely fire, drinking something very pleasant and watching the blizzard outside thinking "No school tomorrow." When we did start later in the week the journey to Desford was rather fraught.

I have just heard that we have been given a grant from Blaby District Council to organise taster sessions in various physical activities. So watch out for details of these and please take part so we can justify the grant.

Also, our AGM is coming up and we are, as usual, looking to fill three vacancies on the committee. There is a short piece later in the Newsletter with more details, so have a look and then please do consider offering to help and keep our U3A the vibrant and thriving organisation that we all enjoy so much.

From

Barry Hillyard
Chairperson

Countesthorpe



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

DIARY DATES: April-May 2013

Date	Group	Activity	Venue/time
14 Apr	Solo Lunch	Kilworth Springs Golf Club	Noon for 12.30 pm
15 Apr	Beginners' Photography	3rd week of 4-wk course	6.30 pm at 35 Station Rd
15 Apr	Creative Writing	Theme: "Gateways"	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
16 Apr	SWANS	Wistow and Newton Harcourt	10.30 am in Wistow Rural Centre car park
17 Apr	Literature	Song of Achilles by Madeline Miller	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
17 Apr	Singing for Fun		7.00 – 8.30 pm Methodist Church Room
18 Apr	Photography	Continuing with Project	6.30 – 8 pm Methodist Church Room
19 Apr	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Shirley's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
22 Apr	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
22 Apr	Beginners' Photography	4th week of 4-wk course	6.30 pm at 35 Station Rd
25 Apr	CARE Walking	5 miles from King's Head, Smeeton Westerby + lunch	9.15 am from Village Hall
26 Apr	Discussion	Topic: Hot News	10 – noon at June's home
1 May	Scrabble	Scrabble, Upwords, Rummikub	2.00 – 4.30 pm at Brook Court
7 May	SWANS	Thornton Reservoir	10.30 am in car park
13 May	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
14 May	Monthly Meeting	AGM	Doors open 1.30 pm Speaker from 2.00/2.15 pm
15 May	Literature	Any action novel by Ken Follett	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
15 May	Singing for Fun		7.00 – 8.30 pm Methodist Church Room
16 May	History	Wall Roman Baths + Lichfield	9.15 am from Village Hall
17 May	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Carole's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
17 May	Discussion	NOTE CHANGE OF DATE!	10 – noon at Liz's home
27 May	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall

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 available 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.



FOLK DANCING

Next sessions will be on 22 April, then 13 and 27 May - and everyone is welcome - please remember to wear comfortable shoes and bring your sense of humour. Also, please do tell me when things aren't clear!

Details from Patsy Paterson on 277 6259

THIRD AGE MATTERS

We will no longer receive bulk supplies of the Third Age national magazine for distribution at our meetings, but you can have 5 issues delivered to your door, plus 3 issues of 'Sources' as well for just £2.10 per subscription year.

Just pick up a form from the display rack in the lobby, complete it and let Barry Hillyard have it with your cheque (payable to Countesthorpe U3A) by 20 May at the latest to be included at the first opportunity!

Superb value and lots of interesting articles for U3A members!

Copy date for the next Newsletter is 5 June
Contributions to jhawkins45@talktalk.net or call 277 6330

WOULD YOU LIKE TO HELP?

Our annual AGM will precede the speaker at our May meeting on 14 May, and as usual, a number of the existing committee members will be offering themselves for re-election. These include Barry Hillyard (Chair), Graham Surman (Vice-Chair), David Wild (Secretary) Sue Wyllie (treasurer) and June Hawkins (Publicity).

Three members of the 2012/3 committee will be standing down; these are Margaret Cronin (Speaker Finder), Marlene Robinson (Groups Co-ordinator) and Margaret Glover (resigned).

As a result, we will have three vacancies and would be very pleased to receive nominations from any member (either on behalf of themselves or another person who is willing to stand). It is not an onerous task – the Committee meets once a month for about 1 – 1½ hours. Ordinary committee members serve for two years, and in their first year are invited to ‘shadow’ one of the various posts, with a view to taking that responsibility in their second year – such as Speaker Finder, Groups Co-ordinator, etc.

We are keen to recruit people who have never served on the Committee and especially any newer U3A members. You are encouraged to contact any member of the committee for an informal chat before making up your mind.

Do come and join us – it is a lot of fun, and very rewarding to be able to help organise our U3A which brings so much enjoyment to so many local people!

FEEL FREE TO CHAT TO ANY COMMITTEE MEMBER!

HAVE YOU GOT THE ‘X FACTOR’?

A huge amount of talent, knowledge and experience exists amongst our membership, and we are very keen to encourage anyone who would be willing to make a short presentation or talk at our monthly meetings.

Home grown talent is always such a delight – so please don’t be shy!

Stop hiding your light under the proverbial bushel and share your interest, humour, knowledge or expertise with your fellow members!

**Contact any committee member or
our Speaker Finder, Margaret Cronin on 277 9867**

VISIT TO BRÖNTE COUNTRY

Tuesday, 18 June 2013

Organised by the Literature Group, but all members are very welcome! No Village Hall parking, so we leave the Leys at 8.25 am, Village Hall at 8.30 am and The Square at 8.35 am (+ Western Drive later) by coach and arrive at Haworth in time for a pub lunch (optional; £9.45 for a main course - to be selected on booking).

Then we have time for a visit to the Brönte Museum, a guided walk around the village and time for a tea shop visit before leaving for home at around 5 pm. Estimated time of arrival back in Countesthorpe is between 8 and 8.30 pm.

£26 includes coach, guided walk and Museum entrance.

Booking form in lounge or speak to Ruth on 277 1533

IMAGININGS!

This year, on renewal of your U3A membership, each individual member or couple at same address will receive a free copy of the third miscellany of poems, stories and descriptive pieces produced by our Creative Writing group. Don't forget to claim yours!

This is being presented with the compliments of the Committee, and we hope that everyone will enjoy the examples of the group members' work - and perhaps even be inspired to join them between 2 – 4 pm on the third Monday of each month at Brook Court.



Details of Creative Writing group from Mikki Wilde on 277 5509

GROUP LEADERS' MEETING

Thursday, 25 April, 3-4 pm in small lounge

We hope as many Group Leaders as possible will be able to attend. Agenda items to Marlene on 277 9162 or Menna Carr on 01455 283862 or by email: mennacarr@btinternet.com (by 18 April, please)

HISTORY GROUP

During the last three months, about forty people enjoyed Peter Liddle's illustrated talks on Prehistoric, Iron Age and Roman Leicestershire – spanning many millennia. A further three talks are planned, each 9.45 am – noon in the Methodist Chapel, in November, December and January, covering Early Anglo-Saxon, then Mercian, Viking and Norman and finally Medieval Leicestershire. These will again be £3 on the door, to include refreshments. Loop system available. Actual dates TBA.

Nottingham Caves and Tunnels on Wed, 10 April (dep 9 am) £20

Then we have three further coach trips planned:

Wall Roman Baths and Lichfield on Thurs, 16 May £12 - FULL
Stokesay Castle and Ludlow Food Centre on 25 June – FULL
Staffordshire Hoard on 19 September (details TBA)

We also plan to visit Burrough Hill excavations in July, and Wrest Park (Bedfordshire) in August. More details in due course.

For details of these trips, and to book, please visit the History table in the small lounge, see the website or email June on jhawkins45@talktalk.net

VISIT TO LINCOLN - Thursday, 6 June

Departing from the Village Hall at 9 am, the coach will drop us near the Cathedral and pick us up from the bus station – that way you won't have to walk up the hill (unless you have a burning desire for exercise!). The cost will be £12 per person.

A guided tour of the Cathedral is not possible that day due to a schools' music festival. However, it will be open for visitors. Near the Cathedral is the castle (concessions £4). There is a minibus service that runs every half hour round the town (free with your Concessionary Bus Pass) so you won't need to walk down the steep hill. There are many interesting small streets and little shops to explore.

Please sign up on the list on the Travel Table in the small lounge or contact Barry on 277 4187, or by email at bhillyard@metronet.co.uk

MAH JONG may return!

This game could be available to U3A members once again – combining with the Scrabble group which already offers more than just this favourite word game. Rummikub and Upwords are played regularly, and it has been decided to try and revive the game of Mah Jong alongside these.



The sessions take place in the residents' lounge at Brook Court from 2 – 4.30 pm on the first Wednesday of each month. The cost would be just 50p for use of the room.

If you would be interested in playing Mah Jong, then please contact Lesley Woodward on 278 7972.

HEALTHY LIVING Your life . . . live it!



Possible new exercise and lifestyle group!

The 6-week course will:-
improve your heart health,
strengthen your muscles,
help you move more freely, and
make new friends!

We have funding from Blaby District Council to run this, and now need to identify those members who would be interested. So, please sign the list in the small lounge to enable us to begin organising this new initiative for you!

THEATRE PROGRAMME



Tues* 16 Apr	The Full Monty	£18	Loughborough Town Hall	Leys 6.05 pm, + VH, Square	12 Mar
Thurs 9 May	Billy Elliot	£35	Victoria Palace, London	VH 9.15 am	15 Jan
Wed 12 June	Shakers Re-stirred	CANCELLED - due to low numbers			
Tues* 2 July	The Odd Couple	£16	Market Harborough	Leys 6.40 pm, + VH, Square	14 May
Thurs 31 Oct	War Horse	£60	Birmingham Hippodrome	VH 12 noon	9 April
Tues* 10 Dec	Chicago	£20	Curve, Leicester	Leys 6.10 pm, + VH, Square	11 June

THE FULL MONTY: Production by the ESNA players of this well-known tale, but with a twist – set in Buffalo, New York rather than the UK.

BILLY ELLIOT – the musical: Set in a northern mining town, against the background of the 1984/'85 miners' strike, Billy Elliot is the inspirational story of a boy's struggle to make his dream come true. Time for lunch before the show.

THE ODD COUPLE - Comedy, in which fussy Florence and sloppy Olive share an apartment, coping with each other, their friends and the two Spanish brothers who live upstairs.

WAR HORSE – BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND! Don't miss this last opportunity to see this amazing and heart-warming production! How can puppets be so life-like?

CHICAGO – Get your Christmas season off to a great start with 'All That Jazz' in this award-winning show – bargain tickets and transport there and back as well.

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

*** SORRY, BUT DUE TO ZUMBA CLASSES, THERE IS NO PARKING AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY EVENINGS – AFFECTING 'THE FULL MONTY', 'THE ODD COUPLE' and 'CHICAGO'. THE COACH WILL PICK UP AT THE LEYS, THE VILLAGE HALL AND THE SQUARE – TRY PARKING IN THE CO-OP OR CENTRAL STREET CAR PARKS (FREE AFTER 6 PM)**

PLEASE STICK TO YOUR STATED CHOICE OF PICK-UP POINT TO AVOID THE COACH WAITING UNNECESSARILY!