

Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter



Aug-Sept 2013

Issue 2013/4

Chairperson's Letter

(Tel: 277 4187)

Dear Friends

At the end of August thirty or so of us will visit Wengen in Switzerland. This is the sixth time in recent years I have visited Switzerland – four times to Brunnen and twice to Wengen. All with the U3A and very well organised by Jenny Mills assisted by June Hawkins. Both of these deserve our thanks for the phenomenal care they take over the arrangements and planning.

It puts me in mind of my first visit to Switzerland in 1967. It was the end of my second year at Leicester University and I wanted to travel a bit. I bought a rail ticket from Basel to London Victoria for ten days after the start of the trip. The intention was to hitchhike to Geneva knowing that I had to be in Basel at a set date and time for the return. *(How many of us would nowadays let our children/grandchildren hitchhike?!).*

I camped at Interlaken and took the train to the Jungfrauoch which travels through the Eiger mountain with windows in the North Face of the Eiger. *(The first ascent of the western flank was in 1858 taking 9 hours. The first successful ascent of the notorious north face was in 1938, taking three days. In 2008 Ueli Steck broke his own record, soloing the face in 2 hours, 47 minutes and 33 seconds.)* Compared to nowadays, the trains were not as luxurious – with high ground clearance and verandas at the ends to enter and leave by.

I thought I was adventurous going to Switzerland. Nowadays students go even further afield. Our Elizabeth went for six weeks to New Zealand *(booked flights not hitchhiking!)*

From

Barry Hillyard
Chairperson

Countesthorpe



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

DIARY DATES: Aug-Sept 2013

Date	Group	Activity	Venue/time
15 Aug	Photography	Working on project	6.30 pm Methodist Hall
16 Aug	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Lesley's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
18 Aug	Solo Lunch	Ullesthorpe Court	Noon for 12.30 pm
20 Aug	SWANS	Burbage Common	10.30 am at Smithy Lane
23 Aug	Discussion	"Whistleblowers – Heroes or Villains?"	10.00 am at Ruth's home
29 Aug	Walking CARE	Approx 5 miles from Neville Arms, Medbourne	9.15 am from Village Hall
3 Sept	SWANS	Blaby Heritage Trail	10.30 am Bouskell Park
4 Sept	Scrabble	Scrabble, Upwords, Rummikub	2 – 4.30 pm Brook Court
4 Sept	Singing for Fun	Fortnightly meetings resume	7 – 8.30 pm Methodist Hall
5 Sept	Art	Weekly meetings resume	2 – 4 pm Methodist Hall
9 Sept	Folk Dancing	Fortnightly meetings resume	2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
10 Sept	Monthly Meeting	A sideways Look at Entertainment <i>Neville Cooper</i>	Doors open 1.30 pm Speaker from 2.00/2.15 pm
11 Sept	Hand Bells	Weekly meetings resume	2 – 4 pm Methodist Hall
15 Sept	Solo Lunch	Venue TBA	Noon for 12.30 pm
16 Sept	Creative Writing	Theme: "Returning"	2 – 4 pm at Brook Court
17 Sept	SWANS	Bede Park (Bonners Lane)	9.41 am bus from C'thorpe
18 Sept	Literature	Our individual summer 'reads'	2 – 4 pm at Brook Court
19 Sept	History	Burrough Hill Iron Age hillfort	9.30 am from Village Hall
20 Sept	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Pamela's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
23 Sept	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
24 Sept	SWANS	Planning Meeting	10.30 am Chives Coffee Shop, Glebe Garden Ctre
27 Sept	Discussion	"What Does Welfare Really Mean?"	10.00 am at June's home



FOLK DANCING

The next sessions after our August break will be 9 and 23 September, then 14 October.

However, Patsy and Ian plan to attend at least one wedding Ceilidh during that time!

We have lots of fun on the second and fourth Mondays of the month in the Village Hall between 2.00 and 3.30 pm, so why not come along and join us. Just bring comfy shoes and your sense of humour and join in with our dancing.

Details from Patsy Paterson on 277 6259

KURLING

The group is currently taking its summer break, but looking forward to resuming on 4 September, at the usual time of 11.00 am to 12 noon in the Countesthorpe Village Hall, every Wednesday.



The group is looking for new members, and everyone is very welcome to come along and have a try! There is no ice rink involved, but it is a very similar game to curling (ours is a 'K' not a 'C'!) which you may well have seen in the Winter Olympics. It provides light exercise and good-humoured banter. Even if you cannot bend down, you can still play by using a 'pusher' – so there's no excuse! There are no prizes for winning, though it's regularly Sheila Knight who seems to come out on top!

More information available from Margaret Woolley on 277 3510

If you have changed your address, or phone number, please let Sue Wyllie (our Treasurer) know so that we have your current details in case we need to contact you!

HISTORY GROUP

Following our summer coach outings it is time to look forward to our more local events in the autumn, and to planning for the coming year.

Thursday, 19 September: Visit to **Burrough Hill Iron Age Hillfort**, using shared cars. Depart from Village Hall at 9.30 am. No need to book – just turn up in good time. Small donation for drivers. Own lunch arrangements.

Thursday, 10 October: Visit to Snibston Discovery Park to see the exhibition **“Treasure! Shedding Light on Leicestershire’s Past”**. Part of the Leicestershire Museum’s Portable Antiquities collection, this includes items dating from 2,500 BC to the seventeenth century. Leave Village Hall at 9.30 am using shared cars (small donation to driver, please). Entrance fee is £6.25 – pay individually on arrival at Snibston. Own arrangements for lunch and return time, so stay as long as you wish.

Thursday, 17 October: Planning Meeting 10.00 am at Methodist Chapel. Please bring your ideas! Any offers to help organise events gratefully received. Full support is provided, and there are no bookings or money issues to deal with!

Finally, as winter approaches we will return to **Peter Liddle’s** popular talks on **“Discovering Leicestershire Archaeology”**. These last three in the series will take place on the dates shown below in the Methodist Chapel, Wigston Street, 10 am to noon/12.20 pm and will cost £3 on the door, to include refreshments. No pre-booking is necessary – just turn up on the day!

Thursday, 7 November: Early Anglo-Saxon Leicestershire

An illustrated exploration of life and death in Anglo-Saxon Leicestershire and Rutland through archaeological discoveries in the area.

Thursday, 5 December: Mercian, Viking and Norman Leicestershire

Leicestershire was at the heart of Mercia – for many years the pre-eminent Anglo-Saxon kingdom until it was smashed by Viking invaders. This is a crucial period for Leicestershire’s development and the archaeology is beginning to reflect this.

Thursday, 9 January 2014: Medieval Leicestershire

A period of villages, open fields, castles and abbeys but also of famine, pestilence and war. This talk will introduce the rich archaeology of medieval Leicestershire.

For details see the website or email June on jhawkins45@talktalk.net or telephone on 0116 277 6330.

SWANS UPDATE

We have added to our list of favourite walks this season. On 4 June, having parked at Sutton Cheney wharf, about a dozen SWANS walked round the Bosworth battlefield. It was a lovely day and we enjoyed it very much. (Unfortunately, Lesley and I, who returned a different way to the rest to avoid steps, took a wrong turn and ended up walking a lot further!) We all finished up at the pub before returning home.

On 18 June we had a guided walk around Welford Road cemetery. It's a very interesting place and well worth a visit. It was a very small group, only around 10 of us, so we were able to hear all the guide had to say and ask questions along the way. The weather was glorious, very hot and sunny. One of our number was a little overcome with the heat but many thanks to RW who kindly fetched his car and gave her a lift to the Visitor Centre for a reviving cup of tea.

The SWANS anniversary lunch this year was held at the Castle Restaurant in Kirby Muxloe, and 15 of us enjoyed a very tasty meal, and would recommend the Castle to other groups. We did not walk around the Castle grounds – I think we were all a little too full!

For the first time in our history, a walk was cancelled due to the HEAT!! On 16 July our walk at Fosse Meadows was called off due to it being too hot and airless for a large number of people, (including me!). I will endeavour to put this in the autumn programme.

Don't forget the next Planning meeting on 24 September – 10.30 am at Glebe Gardens' Chives Coffee Shop.

Pamela Runacres

LEARNING TO DRAW

We are still finalising arrangements for this possible new group, but it looks as if we will offer a series of six-week courses, 2 hours a week (to be paid for in full at the start), on either a morning or an evening basis – depending upon the Tutor's other teaching commitments.

The cost will be rather more than our usual activities, but this is for a professional artist/tutor, and may be between £45 - £60 depending on the actual final arrangements. This is still cheaper than community college courses, and will be tailor-made for us. So watch for more details next month! We will make contact with those on the 'interested' list.

HEALTHY LIVING

Your life . . . live it!



We are pleased to announce that the initial six-week course will commence on Monday, 23rd September between 11.30 am and 12.30 pm in the Scout Hut, Countesthorpe (next to the Conservative Club). Karen Bent will be the tutor, with Marlene Robinson acting as U3A Group Leader (Tel: 277 9162)

The classes are designed to strengthen your muscles, improve your flexibility and get your heart pumping to music that you'll want to sing along to. Whether you're a non-exerciser or are already active, this will be of great benefit, so why not join us?

The cost will be £15 for the six week-course, payable at the start. Those who expressed interest will be contacted until we have an initial group of about 15 people. Subsequent groups will run for the next names on the list until all have been accommodated.

The future possible continuation of the group will then be considered in terms of how it runs, when, and at what cost.

**“Christmas is a-comin’ and the goose is getting fat!”
DON'T MISS THIS DATE FOR YOUR DIARY!**

Our U3A Christmas Lunch will be on **Friday, 29 November** at Tastes Restaurant, Leicester College – the same as last year.

Menus and booking forms are available on the chairs for August meeting, in the lobby at meetings or to download from the website. £21 with coach transport, or £16 without.

VISIT TO BRONTË COUNTRY – HAWORTH PARSONAGE

Tuesday, 18 June was one of that month's rare, mostly sunny days. Twenty-eight U3A members boarded the coach and travelled to Howarth in West Yorkshire. We arrived on time, the small coach venturing up a narrow street to the centre of the village where we all disembarked. It then carefully backed down to the coach park below (much to the frustration of the cars behind which were trying to get up the hill!).

A midday meal was the next priority; some members enjoying food already booked at The Old White Lion Hotel, others finding one of the many cafes close by or enjoying a picnic.

After lunch we assembled in the sunshine at the rear of the Brontë Parsonage Museum and were taken down into the basement where an informative presentation was given. The Brontë family history was illustrated with old photographs and paintings. We heard about their family lives, their successes and their tragic



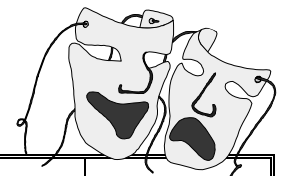
early deaths from TB. Next we were taken on a walk round the area, stopping here and there to see and hear about where the sisters would have walked and the inn where their brother, Branwell, spent some time. We then took our turn to wander around the Parsonage – a large house in a village that has many small dwellings. The smallish rooms were atmospheric, with furniture and household items of the time helping us to appreciate how they lived their lives.

Later there was time to explore the old part of the village, situated on the side or top of a hill. The steep cobbled streets limit traffic. The shops have retained their nineteenth century character and some were invitingly unusual, charming and different. Most of us partook of tea with a delicious bite of something to fortify us on our journey home.

A fortuitous prelude to the Literature Group's July meeting (where we discussed any book by one of the Brontë sisters) was the knowledgeable speaker, Helen Peden, at the main monthly meeting. Now we all know much more about Charlotte Brontë's Jane Eyre!

Ruth Westley

THEATRE PROGRAMME



Tues* 24 Sept	People	£20	Curve, Leicester	Leys 6.35 pm + VH, Square	14 Aug
Thurs 31 Oct	War Horse	£60	Birmingham Hippodrome	VH 12 noon	9 April
Tues* 26 Nov	The Hindle Wakes	£16	Market Harborough	Leys 6.40 pm, + VH, Square	8 Oct
Tues* 10 Dec	Chicago	£20	Curve, Leicester	Leys 6.10 pm, + VH, Square	11 June

PEOPLE – Alan Bennett’s newest play tours from its sell-out performances at the National Theatre in London.

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? *FULL, but you can join waiting list.*

THE HINDLE WAKES - A mill girl spends an illicit weekend in Wales with a wealthy mill-owner’s son. Produced first in the early 20th century, this play explores the reactions and decisions following this shocking event.

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 ‘PEOPLE’, ‘THE HINDLE WAKES’ and ‘CHICAGO’. THE COACH WILL PICK UP AT THE LEYS, THE VILLAGE HALL AND THE SQUARE – PARKING IS AVAILABLE IN THE CO-OP OR CENTRAL STREET CAR PARKS**

SELECT YOUR CHOICE OF PICK-UP POINT WHEN BOOKING AND THEN PLEASE DO STICK TO IT! THIS AVOIDS US HAVING TO MAKE PHONE CALLS OR THE COACH WAITING UNNECESSARILY AT EARLY STOPS!