

Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter



Apr-May 2014

Issue 2014/2

Chairperson's Letter

(Tel: 277 4187)

Dear Friends

This is my last letter to you as chairman of our U3A – next time it will be from our new chairman.

I would like to thank all the members of the committee over the last two years for their efforts in making this U3A so lively and vibrant. I won't single out individuals as that would be invidious, but without people working behind the scenes finding such good speakers, organising the groups, sorting out the publicity and finances we wouldn't be where we are now.

The Leicestershire and Rutland U3A Network is organising a day at Snibston Museum on Friday 10th October. Tickets will be £10.50 including Afternoon Tea. Topics to be covered will include:

Cool Science – sound vibrations and balloon science fun,
Blue Box Talk – England's oldest travelling theatre,
Fashion Gallery (including view of reserve stock)

Tickets available via booking form (website, or Sue's desk at meeting).

This is an example of how the wider U3A can provide activities that individual U3As would find difficult. We are not alone!

Enjoy yourselves!

From

Barry Hillyard
Chairperson

Countesthorpe
U3A

THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

DIARY DATES: April-May 2014

| Date | Group | Activity | Venue/time |
|----------|---------------------|--|---|
| 13 April | Solo Lunch | Ullesthorpe Court | Noon for 12.30 pm |
| 14 Apr | Folk Dancing | | 2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall |
| 15 Apr | SWANS | Foxton Locks | 10.30 am Top car park |
| 16 Apr | Literature | The Great Silence, 1918-20 by Juliet Nicolson | 2 – 4 pm at Brook Court |
| 18 Apr | CHEWS | Main meeting + weigh-in | Shirley's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am |
| 22 Apr | Playreading | <i>(NB change of venue this time)</i> | 2 – 4 pm Joan's home |
| 24 Apr | Walking CARE | Approx 5 miles from Queen's Head, Saddington | 9.30 am from Village Hall |
| 25 Apr | Discussion | "Pre-nuptial agreements – good or bad?" | 10.00 am at Shirley's home (3 Laurel Drive) |
| 29 Apr | Pilates | Bring towel; mats and equipment provided £3 | 2.45 – 3.45 pm Village Hall |
| 1 May | Birdwatching | Visit to Fosse Meadows | Leave Village Hall 6 pm |
| 6 May | SWANS | East Carlton Park | 10.30 am at ECP car park |
| 6 May | Pilates | Bring towel; mats and equipment provided £3 | 2.45 – 3.45 pm Village Hall |
| 12 May | Folk Dancing | | 2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall |
| 13 May | Monthly Meeting/AGM | AGM, followed by U3A talent | Doors open 1.30 pm AGM at 2.00/2.15 pm |
| 14 May | Flower Arranging | | 2 – 4 pm Small Lounge |
| 16 May | CHEWS | Main meeting + weigh-in | Marlene's home , between 9.15 and 10.15 am |
| 18 May | Solo Lunch | Venue TBA | Noon for 12.30 pm |
| 19 May | Creative Writing | Theme: Exercise, or Pleasure (or even Displeasure!) | 2 – 4 pm at Brook Court |
| 20 May | SWANS | Burbage Common & Woods | 10.30 am at Smithy Lane |
| 20 May | Pilates | Bring towel; mats and equipment provided £3 | 2.45 – 3.45 pm Village Hall |
| 21 May | Literature | The Unlikely Pilgrimage of Harold Fry, by Rachel Joyce | 2 – 4 pm at Brook Court |
| 23 May | Discussion | Moving House in Later Years | 10 am – noon at Ruth's home (3 Hallcroft Gardens) |

COUNTRY DANCING



Our next sessions of country dancing will be on 28 April and 12 May in Countesthorpe Village Hall between 2 pm and 3.30 pm. Please come in comfortable clothing and shoes to join in the various dances. Everyone is welcome.

Details from Patsy Paterson on 277 6259

FIT FOR LIFE is NOW OPEN TO ALL MEMBERS!

Come along and join us in the Village Hall each Monday between 11.30 am and 12.30 pm. Aerobic movement to music, along with exercises to strengthen the muscles and improve flexibility – all tailored to our needs by our great instructor, Karen Bent. £3 on the day. Wear loose clothing and appropriate shoes.

Please note that there will be no meetings on 14 and 21 April, due to the Easter break, so resume on 28 April.

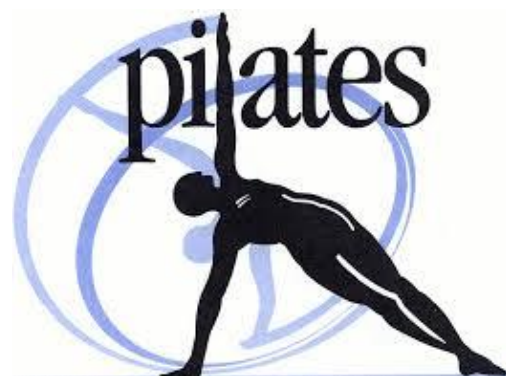
Details from Marlene Robinson on 277 9162

Sessions now available on trial basis, each Tuesday of the month EXCEPT the second (due to our monthly meeting). 2.45 – 3.45 pm in the Village Hall.

Bring along a towel, wear loose clothing and be prepared to work barefoot or in socks. Mats, bands, balls provided. £3 per session

Meeting dates are 29 April, 6 and 20 May, so why not come along and join us, get fitter in the process, and help establish this new group?

Details from Menna on 01455 283862



HISTORY GROUP

Wednesday, 4 June: Visit Pugin's lovely church at Cheadle, then enjoy entry to Trentham Gardens. Leave VH at 9.am, SQ at 9.05 am. £24. Places still available. *(Arranged by Chris Claricoates for the Group)*

Thursday, 17 July: Visit to Stafford town and castle. Depart Village Hall at 8.50 am or The Square at 9.00, and arrive in Stafford approx 10.30 am. Meet at 11.30 am for guided walk (approx 50 mins), then time for lunch and to visit the Ancient House and St Chad's Church, before re-joining the coach at 2.45 pm to visit Stafford's Norman castle, Visitor Centre and herb garden. Depart Castle approx 4.15 pm. £18 *(Arranged by Joan Burn and Sue Wyllie for the Group)*

Thursday, 14 August: Visit to Saxon church at Brixworth followed by Cottestbrooke Hall and Gardens. Depart Village Hall at 11.00 am for guided tour of Brixworth Church, buffet lunch in adjacent Heritage Centre, then visit to Cottestbrooke Hall and Gardens with time for tea before leaving approx 4.45 pm. £24 (inc lunch, tour and entry to Hall) Refunds will be given on the day if numbers are sufficient. *(Arranged by June Hawkins for the Group)*

Mon 29 Sept – Thurs 2 Oct: 3-night break in Portsmouth for the Historic Dockyard (Victory, Warrior, new Mary Rose Museum), plus the National Museum of the Royal Navy, Harbour Tour, Spinnaker Tower, Gunwharf Quays, Old Portsmouth and the cathedral, etc



Coach transport to and from Portsmouth – whilst there all time is free to use as you please. £220 per person (standard room) or £250 in an upgraded room. Cost includes accommodation on a dinner, bed and breakfast basis at the Royal Maritime Club (100 yards from Dockyard), Dockyard ticket, driver and hotel gratuities, plus a group visit on the return day to the D-Day Museum and the Overlord Embroidery. **BALANCE DUE BY 8 JULY, PLEASE.**

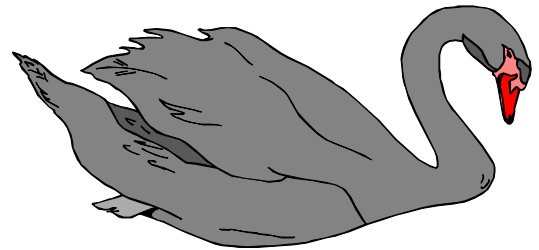
*For details and to book see the **History Table**, the website or contact June on jhawkins45@talktalk.net or telephone 0116 277 6330.*

If you have changed your address, or phone number, please let Sue Wyllie (our Treasurer) know (284 9959) so that we have your current details in case we need to contact you!

S W A N S

Twelve people attended the Planning Meeting and, after thanking those who had responded to the survey, I advised that although I had looked through numerous leaflets, those that weren't too far to get to were either too long, walked along main roads or had stiles. We have a good list of walks that we all like and Liz and I came to the conclusion that we had enough to be going on with. I asked that if anyone finds something new, then please let us know but ensure it is within our parameters first. Liz has looked again at East Carlton Park and will show a new route on 6th May. There is a new walk on the programme at Western Park, but I have to do a bit more research as one of the members at the meeting thought that the ECO house may now be closed. Further information in due course!

I then asked that the membership list be updated to include mobile numbers and email addresses so that Liz or I could advise last minute cancellations or alterations by text or email. I also pointed out that Liz is now the first point of contact.



Viv and Lesley brought 4 different venues for our Anniversary Lunch and we decided to go to The Red Cow in Leicester Forest East. Details about menus, prices, deposits and menu choices will be available from them shortly.

It is very gratifying that SWANS is still going strong and in June will go into its eighth year. New members are always welcome, so come and join us as we SWAN merrily along!

Pamela Runacres

HELP US TO KEEP PROSPERING!

We have two vacancies on the committee from 13 May, and we would very much welcome some 'new blood'. If you would like to join us, or know someone that might be persuaded, then just call any committee member.

Please do consider helping us to continue thriving!

SCRABBLE

The group has grown over the past year to 16 members but there is plenty of room for more! As well as playing Scrabble some members play Rummikub and/or Upwords for a change and one member only plays Rummikub. So if you would like to play any/all of these 3 games, you will be made very welcome.

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month in the residents' lounge at Brook Court, Countesthorpe, from 2.00 to 4.30 p.m.

Contact Lesley on 0116 278 7972

BREADMAKING COURSE

This was attended by eleven members on 25 March, and was held at the Landgirls' Cookery School at Atherstone. We were greeted with cherry scones fresh from the oven, and delicious chocolate cakes – a good start to the day!



We learned about different types and textures of flour from our tutor, Annelise, and then under supervision set to work on our first batch of dough for a loaf. Whilst this was proving, we made a second batch of dough to be made into rolls, which we filled with a variety of savoury ingredients such as pesto, wholegrain mustard, different cheeses and pancetta.

Whilst all these were baking, it was back to the cakes (plus Jenny Mills' birthday cake!). Once out of the oven, we carefully packed our loaves and rolls and returned home, well equipped to try out further bread-making in the future.

It was a great success, and many thanks to Menna for arranging it!

MEMBERSHIP RENEWALS

Renewals will be taken after the speaker at the April and May meetings. Cost for 2014 is reduced to just **£11**, with Associate Membership (for anyone who is a full member of another U3A) at £6.

As usual, membership renewals will be handled at three tables at the front of the hall, according to the initial letter of your surname. **NEW** members only should join at Sue Wyllie's table in the foyer.

Please consider **Gift Aid** if you are a UK taxpayer – forms are available for completion in the display racks in the foyer.

Whilst renewing, why not pay just £2.10 (postage charge) and have five copies of the national magazine, **U3A Matters**, delivered to your door. Please complete a form (in display racks in foyer) to arrange this.

CHEQUES PAYABLE TO 'COUNTSTHORPE U3A', PLEASE

CLASSICAL MUSIC and JAZZ APPRECIATION

Regretfully, attendance at these groups has dwindled, and so it has been decided to suspend meetings for a few months, with a view to perhaps reviving them after the summer. Watch for details later.

BIRDWATCHING



At a recent planning meeting, an outline programme of activities was agreed for the group. The first of these will be an evening visit to Fosse Meadows, leaving the Village Hall in shared cars at 6 pm on Thursday, 1 May (or make your own way to Fosse Meadows if more convenient).

Christine and Tony Claricoates have kindly offered to facilitate this group for the first year, and can be contacted on 277 5251

THEATRE PROGRAMME



| | | | | | |
|-----------------|-------------------------------|--------------|------------------|---|--------|
| Wed, 28 May | Pygmalion | £32 | Milton Keynes | VH at 12.30 pm, Square 12.35 pm | 11 Mar |
| Wed, 25 June | As You Like It (+ ev meal) | £28 (£22) | Tolethorpe | VH at 4.15 pm, Square 4.20 pm | 8 Apr |
| Wed, 9 July | Singin' in the Rain | £35 | Milton Keynes | VH at 12.30 pm, Square 12.35 pm | 13 May |
| Mon, 1 Dec | The Sound of Music | £20 | Curve | Leys at 6.10 pm, VH at 6.20 pm, and The Sq at 6.25 pm | 8 July |

PYGMALION – George Bernard Shaw's popular play, famous as the storyline for 'My Fair Lady' – now see the stage version!

AS YOU LIKE IT – Shakespeare's classic comedy, played out in the open air theatre at Tolethorpe. Magic for a summer's evening!

SINGIN' IN THE RAIN – The story of Hollywood's first musical which gave the silver screen its voice and left silent movies behind.

SOUND OF MUSIC – our annual visit to enjoy Curve's usual Christmas hit musical – much better live on stage than seeing it on the 'telly'!

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

SELECT YOUR CHOICE OF PICK-UP POINT WHEN BOOKING
AND THEN PLEASE HELP BY STICKING TO IT!

**PLEASE NOTE THAT SMALL REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN ON
THE COACH WHERE NUMBERS ALLOW FOR THIS!**

U3A SCIENCE DAY AT SNIBSTON

The Leicestershire and Rutland U3A Network is organising a day at Snibston Museum on Friday, 10th October. Tickets will be £10.50 including Afternoon Tea. See Chairman's letter for details of programme

Tickets via a booking form for download from our website (see What's On section, or from Sue at her desk at monthly meetings.)