

Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter



June-July 2014

Issue 2014/3

Chairperson's Letter

(Tel: 247 8043)

Dear Friends

This is my first newsletter as your new Chairperson. I follow in the footsteps of some highly capable and dedicated people who have created a vibrant and thriving U3A group and I shall strive to maintain and build on the their achievements. The range and diversity of the activities that are available never ceases to amaze me. All this activity is dependent on a band of willing and enthusiastic volunteers. We are all reliant on their commitment to share their skills and time on our behalf!

But things do change. During the year, with the help of local funds, we were able to start a series of fitness groups and a new Bird-watching Group has recently been formed. Sadly, two music appreciation groups have been suspended, temporarily at this time. Who knows what the future will bring. Whatever happens, we aim to provide activities where there is a demand for them. With a thriving membership I'm sure there will always be something interesting going on in our U3A!

As well as our extensive range of activities, there is the wider U3A at work. The Third Age Trust website is full of interesting and helpful information. There are also specialist advisors available to support many groups, online courses and specialist publications available. Have a look for yourself!

As the summer approaches let's hope that we are blessed with the weather to enjoy our chosen activities!

From

Graham Surman
Chairperson

Countesthorpe



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

DIARY DATES: June-July 2014

Date	Group	Activity	Venue/time
16 June	Creative Writing	Character study of (un-named) famous person (150-200 words)	2 – 4 pm at Brook Court
17 June	SWANS	Blaby Circular + Alison's Acre	10.30 am Oakfield Park CP
18 June	Literature	WWI poets, or anything by Laurie Lee	2 – 4 pm at Brook Court
20 June	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Lesley's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
23 June	Country Dancing		2 – 3.30 pm, Village Hall
24 June	SWANS	Anniversary Lunch	Red Cow, LFE
24 June	Play Reading	Wyn Warwick's home	2 – 4 pm
26 June	Walking CARE	Approx 5.5 miles from The Wharf, Welford	9.15 am from Village Hall
27 June	Discussion	"Hot News"	10.00 am at June's home (30 Marston Crescent)
1 July	SWANS	Crow Mills Canal Walk	10.30 am at CM car park
2 July	Scrabble	(+ Rummikub and Upwords)	2 – 4.30 pm Brook Court
2 July	Singing for Fun		7 – 8.30 pm Methodist Rm
3 July	Birdwatching	Planning Meeting	7.30 pm small lounge, VH
8 July	Monthly Meeting	Behind the Scenes in Motor Racing (<i>Chris Mount</i>)	Doors open 1.30 pm Speaker at 2.00/2.15 pm
9 July	Flower Arranging		2 – 4 pm Small Lounge
13 July	Solo Lunch	Venue TBA	Noon for 12.30 pm
14 July	Country Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
15 July	SWANS	Watermead Park	10.30 am at Mill Lane, Th
16 July	Literature	"What the Butler Winked At" or "More Winks" (<i>Eric Horn</i>)	2 – 4 pm at Brook Court
16 July	Singing for Fun		7 – 8.30 pm Methodist Rm
21 July	Creative Writing	Theme: TBA	2 – 4 pm at Brook Court
25 July	Discussion	Topic: Recycling	10 am – noon at Jill's home (9 The Square)

COUNTRY DANCING



Our next sessions of country dancing will be on 23 June and 14 and 28 July in the Village Hall, Countesthorpe, 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 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.

Details from Marlene Robinson on 277 9162

PARKING AT THE VILLAGE HALL

As many of you know, we are given permission to park some of our cars at the Village Hall when we go on U3A trips and visits. However, this is a concession which we are in danger of losing. We are allowed to park at the very rear of the car park, NOT at the front. We are expected to park cars as closely as possible, even doubling up where we know for sure that the blocked in vehicle belongs to someone on the same trip.

Unfortunately, a few people are disregarding this polite request to park at the rear. If they continue to do so, then it is likely that NONE OF US will be allowed to park, which will cause real difficulties for our outings. So, please be responsible in your parking and adhere to the guidelines. Of course, it is fine to drop someone off just inside the car park if they have mobility problems, before you go on to park at the back. Don't spoil things for us all – PLEASE PARK AT THE BACK!

Thank you, on behalf of all the people who organise U3A trips!

HAND-BELL RINGING

Please note that there will be NO meetings in August!

HISTORY 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 Cottesbrooke 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 Cottesbrooke Hall and Gardens with time for tea before leaving approx 4.45 pm. £24 (including 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!

Letter from Margaret Woolley

Hello to all my good friends at the Countesthorpe U3A!

As I am sure by now you will all know, I have relocated to Exeter to be near to my lovely daughter and family in the fine city of Exeter. At the moment I am in a very nice apartment right on the river and opposite a little children's play area, so there is always something to watch. Wildlife on the river is also a treat.

I have located the Exeter U3A (£32 per year!) and find there is lots going on so I will be getting involved with them soon. My several grand-daughters and grandchildren are regular visitors so I won't be getting bored anytime soon.

If any of you find yourselves in the Exeter area at any time please give me a ring on 01392 427830 and I'd love to meet up with you, as I did with June and Jenny recently when holidaying near Sidmouth.

I will be returning to the village from time to time as my youngest son has moved into my house in Green Lane.

Finally, thank you so much for the artist's carry-all, which I am very pleased with and I will look forward to making good use of it during the nice weather.

Take good care.

Love - Margaret Woolley x x



Note: Jenny Mills and June Hawkins visited Margaret in her new flat, whilst on holiday near Exeter, and spent the day with her, visiting Exeter cathedral and the interesting Quayside near her new home. On behalf of the U3A, she was presented with an artist's carry-bag, containing all the essentials for working outdoors, purchased on our recent visit to Saltaire. She is settling in well into her flat (see picture!) overlooking the river.

BIRDWATCHING

The visit to Fosse Meadows on 1 May, attended by 10 people was successful with a good mix of birds seen and heard, especially water birds. Some interesting discussions took place.

5 June visit to Narborough bog is not viable, due to the wet, so meet as planned (6 pm at Village Hall) for visit to an alternative venue.

3 July – Planning Meeting at 7.30 pm in small lounge, Village Hall

7 August – presentation by Ian Paterson (7 – 8 pm) in small lounge, Village Hall, detailing the latest developments regarding Countesthore Country Park. This will include any support the Parish Council may seek from the U3A birdwatching group.

4 Sept – presentation by Paul Riddle (7 – 8.30 pm) in small lounge. Paul specialises in owls and will concentrate on those to be seen locally. He will also explain how his breeding box programme is performing, along with details on the ringing. Pictures and a short film will be included. **OPEN TO ALL (25 seats) £5**

As all our meetings have to be self-financing, we need to encourage as many members of our group to attend, especially where speakers are involved.

Further information from Tony Claricoates who can be contacted on 277 5251

~~BRITAIN'S~~ OUR U3A'S GOT TALENT!

We know you're out there! Unfortunately, we're not offering an audition with Simon Cowell, David Walliams and company, nor are we offering the chance to perform for royalty. But we ARE offering you the chance to stop hiding your light under a bushel and entertain your fellow U3A members! How can you resist?

Seriously, we have some very talented people amongst us, and we would love to hear them give a short talk or presentation at one of our monthly meetings. Home grown is so much nicer, isn't it! Also, we very occasionally are let down by a speaker for perfectly valid reasons, but at the very last moment, and we are hoping to create a small list of members who might be willing to step in at short notice should this happen again.

If you have a willingness to help out in this way, then please make yourself known to Helen Bull (223 8230) or Margaret Cronin (277 9867) or indeed, any Committee member. You will find all their contact details on the back of the new Activity Groups List issued this month with this Newsletter. Alternatively, just contact us via the website.

Don't be shy – give it a try!

PROPOSED FRENCH GROUP

In Countesthorpe, some 30 years ago the village set up a cultural link with what is now its twin town of Mennecey. The purpose of this link is to explore the way of life and to see how our lifestyle compares with theirs on the other side of the Channel. In practice this has meant regular holidays in Mennecey (near Paris) and has resulted in a number of long-standing friendships with our opposite numbers on the other side of the Channel.

What we now wonder is how this could benefit Countesthorpe U3A? We have quite a number of very positive and fond memories. One year we remember, on a cold wet morning, making our way to Coventry Airport, but just one hour after leaving a miserable Coventry we were sitting in a sunny pavement café outside the Palace of Versailles enjoying our drinks and being serenaded by an accordion player. Our means of travel have been forced to change and we have used Eurostar on the last two occasions, but the pleasure remains.

We could start up a U3A French Group. The purpose of this article is to try and see how a French Group could operate within the U3A. Ideas include:

- 1 To meet on a regular basis to practice our language skills
- 2 To join with the existing twinnings to stay in homes in Mennecey in May 2015
- 3 To consider what other activities we could include – this is where we are looking for ideas

If you feel you would like to get involved and/or have any ideas for activities that we might organise, please add your details to the usual 'sign up' sheet in the small lounge or speak to any member of the committee (details can be found on the back of the new Activity Groups List on seats this month)

ART GROUP'S VISIT TO PATCHINGS

Our visit to Patchings was quite a good day for all our members, as everyone got what they wanted! It was raining a bit when we got there, but brightened up as the day went on.

We went to see David Bellamy painting a picture on the St Cuthbert's tent. He got all of us going - the way he painted the sky!

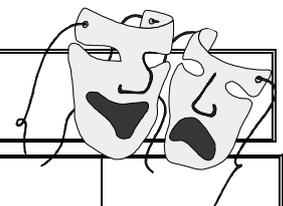
The Old Jazz Band was playing again; good to hear, as we had not had them for a couple of years. Everybody was enjoying listening to the old tunes they were playing whilst we had our lunch.

The Community Bus worked extremely well, and thank you to the driver, Richard, who has taken us before.

If you are interested in joining the Art Group – call me for details!

Maureen Thacker, 278 1877

THEATRE PROGRAMME



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
Wed 22 Oct	The Secret Diary of Adrian Mole	£16	Concordia, Hinckley	VH at 6.40 pm, Square 6.45 pm	9 Sept
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

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.

THE SECRET DIARY OF ADRIAN MOLE, AGED 13¾ - Enjoy the Broughton Astley Player's version of this local author's much-loved best seller about the trials and tribulations of teenager Adrian Mole, as recorded in his secret diary.

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 are £10.50 including Afternoon Tea.

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