

DOROTHY ELGAR'S ARCHIVE ENTRY

When John Slipper, Vice-Principal at Countesthorpe College, put a notice in The Herald about forming a U3A in Countesthorpe I was very interested. I had already heard about it from some friends in Coventry who had joined there and were very enthusiastic about it. I told Evelyn Deeley and Ruth Westley about it. Evelyn and I went to the meeting but Ruth had a prior appointment so was unable to come. John Armstrong was the only other person there. We talked about it and agreed that it seemed a good idea. Another meeting was arranged. More people turned up for that and we decided to form a committee. Ruth agreed to chair the committee meetings and John to host the main meetings. I was asked to arrange speakers and to do the publicity.

Market Harborough U3A had been going for some time and some of their members came to give us some helpful advice. I put posters advertising our meetings on all the notice boards around the village in Countesthorpe and in Blaby, in libraries, some shops and the two building societies as well as in The Countesthorpe Herald and Radio Leicester.

Our first speaker's talk was about war medals; he had a collection and told us stories about them and about the recipients and what they had done to merit a medal. It was very interesting and the men were particularly interested as he brought some of his collection along with him. I tried to get speakers on subjects that appealed to both sexes - preferably not too expensive as we did not have a lot of money at the beginning. Monica Winfield of Radio Leicester asked us to send a representative to appear on her show because she thought it sounded interesting. John and I went and recorded our interview. It seemed to generate quite a lot of response.

Like Topsy, we just grew and grew! Now our original three is more than 300! We outgrew the room at the college which John Slipper had let us use free of charge. Much credit must go to him as he was very helpful and supportive. I hope he feels proud of the successful outcome to his idea.