

Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter

Apr - May 2015

Issue 2015/2

Chairperson's Letter

(Tel: 247 8043)



Hello Everyone, and welcome to Spring!

The clocks have been moved forward, the evenings are getting lighter and the temperature seems to be rising - it must be Spring. If you are invigorated by these seasonal changes then there is a full and varied programme of activities available for you to become involved in. We now have 37 groups active and there is room for more. If you have an enthusiasm or interest that you wish to pursue that is not covered by our U3A, then talk to Menna Carr who will help you find out if there is enough interest among other members to form a group. If yours is a minority interest in Countesthorpe, it may be that another U3A in Leicestershire has an active group. The Leicestershire Network of U3As has recently set up a website at www.landru3a.org.uk and you can begin your search there.

A word of thanks to all those who attended the March monthly meeting. You will recall that John Franks spoke to us about Quilts for Injured Serviceman (Q4IS) where he told us the story behind the charity. He has written a letter of thanks; because of your generosity, £125 was raised for the charity. Together with the talk fee of £50, the charity is now £175 better off. So a big thank you to all who donated. I think it reflects the respect and esteem in which we hold our armed forces.

Finally, please consider our request for new committee members later in this Newsletter, as our AGM is only a few weeks away! We need YOU to help keep our U3A flourishing and operating! I hope you enjoy the (hopefully) improving weather.

From

Graham Surman
Chairperson

Countesthorpe



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

SOME KEY DIARY DATES: April - May 2015

Date	Group	Activity	Venue/time
15 Apr	Literature	Lamentation by C J Sansom	2 – 3.30 pm Brook Court
15 Apr	Singing for Fun		7 – 8.30 pm Methodist Ch
16 Apr	Cribbage		2.30 pm, 25 Westview Av
17 Apr	CHEWS Main meeting + weigh-in		9.15 am Marlene's home
19 Apr	Solo Lunch	The Greyhound, Lutterworth	11.30 for 11.45 am
20 Apr	Creative Writing	Blossom (short piece only)	2 – 4 pm, Brook Court
21 Apr	SWANS	University Botanic Gardens	10.30 am Glebe Rd gate
24 Apr	Discussion	Hot News	10.00 am at Shirley's home (3 Laurel Drive)
27 Apr	Jazz Appreciation		7.30 pm, 17 Linden Avenue
27 Apr	Country Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
28 Apr	Play Reading		2 – 4 pm, Joan's home
28 Apr	Pilates	Now £5 per session, 5 for £20	1.30 – 2.30 pm Village Hall
30 Apr	Walking (CARE)	5 miles from the Fox Inn, Hallaton + optional pub lunch	9.15 am from Village Hall
5 May	SWANS	Foxtan Locks	10.30 am, top car park
6 May	Scrabble	Also Upwords and Rummikub	2 – 4.30 pm, Brook Court
11 May	Science and Technology		12.30 pm Axe & Square
11 May	Country Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
12 May	Monthly Meeting	AGM, with home grown talent	Doors open 1.30 pm AGM at 2.00/2.15 pm
15 May	Birdwatching	Visit to Brandon Marshes	9.30 am from Village Hall
19 May	SWANS	Crow Mills	10.30 am, CM car park
20 May	Literature	Invention of Wings: Sue Monk Kidd	2 – 3.30 pm Brook Court
22 May	Discussion	Horoscopes	10.00 am at Jenny's home (16 Gillam Butts)

SWANS

The SWANS (*Short Walks And No Stiles*) held their annual Planning Meeting at Glebe Garden Centre's café on 24 March, and a few changes were agreed. As the group is now so large it was felt that the responsibility for leading walks should be shared amongst members. Maps are available for all the walks – which are pre-arranged – so this should not be a particularly onerous task. Liz Lockwood-Jones will continue as the point of contact for the group.



The first walk of the new season will be on 21 April to the University Botanical Gardens in Glebe Road, Oadby and will be led by Ruth Westley. Intending walkers should meet at the gates at 10.30 am.

As usual, transport to the meeting point needs to be arranged between group members where public buses are not used.

Further details of walks available from Liz Lockwood-Jones on 240 2296

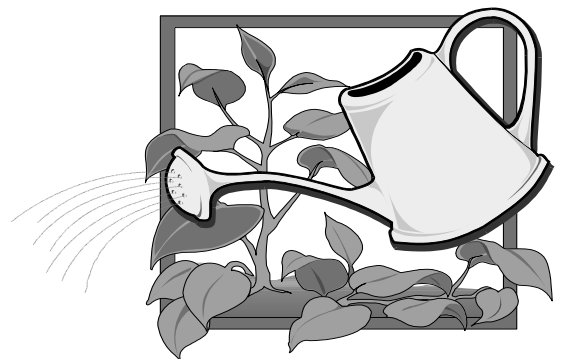
SUBSCRIPTIONS DUE!

£11 for full membership (*Associate membership just £6 with proof of full membership of another U3A*). Renew at tables, alphabetically grouped by surname – **AFTER THE SPEAKER**. Please help to reduce queues by having your money ready – cheques should be payable to Countesthorpe U3A.

ALLOTMENT GARDENING

This very small (just three of us!) group would welcome another one or two people to share in the cultivation and harvesting. We meet for about one and a half hours weekly during the growing season. The plot has raised beds and is located near the Cricket Club, up Glebe Drive, off Station Road.

We share the watering, work, expenses and the eventual produce. If you would be interested in finding out more, then please call Glenys on 277 2495 for details.



RECORDER GROUP



Our Recorder Group is now looking to recruit new members. This group would suit both improvers and returners.

We are a friendly and informal group and meet on a Friday morning from 10.30 am in Countesthorpe. For further information or if you just wish to drop in and see what we are up to, please contact Tricia Cornforth on 07989 549074

IMPORTANT INFORMATION FOR CARDIFF HOLIDAY

Whilst full details of holiday will be available on the coach, and appear now on our website, you may like to note the following key points:

Leave Countesthorpe on Monday 18 May, departing from The Leys at 9.00 am, Village Hall at 9.15 am, and Western Drive at 9.25 am. Please advise Jill Clayton if you intend to join the coach at either The Leys or Western Drive.

Coffee/lunch stop at Strensham Services, arrive hotel at approximately 2.00 pm

Leave Cardiff hotel on Friday 22 May at 9.15 am (*please have luggage ready in good time*) for short journey to Caerleon (ISCA). Free time to explore and take lunch before leaving for home at 2.00 pm.

Expected time of arrive in Countesthorpe is 6.00 pm

Further queries? Call Jill on 07946 517139 or Shirley on 07816 006521

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 on file in case we need to contact you.

THIS IS ESPECIALLY IMPORTANT FOR TRIPS/HOLIDAYS!

If you have an email address, that would be helpful, too, please!

COUNTRY DANCING



Our Folk Dancing Group continues to meet on the second and fourth Monday afternoons each month in Countesthorpe Village Hall from 2.00 pm until 3.30 pm for a variety of dances from England and further afield. We aim to choose dances that are neither too energetic nor too demanding but with enjoyable music and with a wide range of styles and traditions.

Upcoming dates are 27th April and just 11th May (as the fourth Monday is a Bank Holiday) and we recommend that you come in comfortable shoes, as do our 20 or so regular dancers.

Details from Patsy Paterson on 277 6259

Remembering JFK's words

Most of us will remember where we were, or what we were doing when the news of JFK's assassination devastated the world in 1963. Many of us will remember those times of the 35th Presidency of the USA; so much seemed to happen – and so many quotations have gone down in history.



But, can we perhaps paraphrase one of his most quoted sayings: ***“Ask not what our U3A can do for you, but rather what you can do for our U3A”***.

As our AGM draws near, we are looking for volunteers to serve a 2-year stint on the committee. It is not onerous, and you will not be 'dropped into the deep end' in your first year. Just a single 1-2 hour meeting per month, and a willingness to help out at the monthly general meeting is all that's required.

Please be brave and come forward to help out, so that our U3A continues to flourish for the benefit of our 400 members! Lots of support, and lots of fun!

Also, we are always keen to hear from any would-be Group Leaders – again there's lots of support, and it is very rewarding to start up a new group, or indeed to help run an existing group. (Now 37 different ones and counting!)

Ask any committee member, or call 07901 548576 for more information.

DIRECT MAIL SCHEME FOR U3A MAGAZINES

As many of you will be aware, there is an excellent magazine (“Third Age Matters”) published five times a year by the Third Age Trust, plus a “Resources” magazine three times a year. Third Age Matters used to be delivered in bulk to U3A branches, but this has been replaced by the Direct Mail Scheme, whereby members can register and pay a nominal sum for postage.

If you would like to receive Third Age Matters and Resources delivered to your home, then please collect a form from the Treasurer’s desk or the plastic rack in the foyer, complete it, and return it with a cheque (Countesthorpe U3A) for £2.15 to ensure that you are registered in the next tranche for a full year’s worth of interesting reading. *(Or, you COULD pay £10 and get it at the newsagent’s! ☺)*

HISTORY GROUP

Monday, 11 May: Visit to **Hampton Court Palace**. Entry to palace and gardens plus a river trip. Leave Village Hall at 8.30 am, returning approximately 8 pm. £40 payable by 14 April. (Full, but you can go on waiting list)

Thursday, 18 June: Visit to **Tamworth**. Castle, gardens and self-guided town trail. Leave Village Hall at 9.30 am. £16 payable by 12 May

Tuesday, 7 July: Visit to **Flag Fen** Bronze Age Centre/Archaeology Park (nr Peterborough). Leave Village Hall at 9.30 am. £20 payable by 9 June

Monday, 3 Aug: Guided walk around Lutterworth (free, but limited to 20 places), then after lunch, visit Cotesbach for guided walk, talk and visit to the archives (£6.50). Do either or both parts of the day. It is essential to complete a booking slip (which gives full details) – available at History table or download from website.

Mon, 28 Sept – Thurs, 1 Oct: Three night break in **Salisbury** (DBB at AA 4* hotel). Includes visits to **Stonehenge**, Old Sarum, Basildon Park, Mottisfont Abbey and Hughenden Manor, plus time to explore Cathedral and a city walk. Shared double/twin rooms £275 pp, single occupancy £360 pp. FULL

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

FREE LEGAL ADVICE FOR U3A MEMBERS

Advice available 24 hours a day, on any legal issues (not just U3A-related ones). Call FirstAssist on 01455 251500 and quote: “The Third Age Trust. Number 70494”

BIRDWATCHING



Fifteen members of the Bird Watching Group visited Brandon Marsh in Warwickshire on Friday 27 February. We were lucky in that it was a bright morning with very good visibility. The lakes looked lovely under the sunshine with the bare trees reflected in the water. Between us we saw a good variety of birds including tufted ducks, oyster catchers, great crested grebes, snipe and cormorants. The hides made for excellent viewing.

Afterwards we all had a very good meal in the restaurant which offers a wide choice of menu. Brandon Marsh is well worth a visit, taking about 35 minutes from Countesthorpe. It would suit any age, from infants upwards, and costs just £1.50 for senior citizens to get in.



On 5 March Anne Strang gave the group a fascinating talk on her visit to Gambia. She presented pictures of the many varied birds she had seen, culminating in the ospreys which had made the lengthy and dangerous journey from Rutland Water and were enjoying the warmth of the Gambia. To local Gambians these lovely birds are commonplace and they would be astonished at the excitement which greets their return here to Rutland Water. Well, the ospreys *have* returned! If you have internet access go to www.ospreys.org.uk to enjoy stunning pictures and video clips.

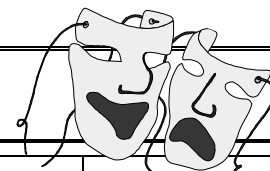
Inspired by Anne's talk, nine of our group visited the Egleton reserve at Rutland Water on 27 March, which turned out to be a hive of activity, with shelduck, pink-footed geese, widgeon, great crested grebe, plover and many more birds on display.

Future Activities:

- 7 May: Planning meeting at 7.30 pm in small lounge
- 15 May: Visit to Brandon Marsh, leaving Village Hall at 9.30 am (shared cars)
- 4 June: Planning meeting at 7.30 pm in small lounge
- 18 June: Visit to Lyndon Osprey reserve at Rutland Water. 9.30 am from the Village Hall, using shared cars as usual.

Normally, our regular group meetings are held on the first Thursday of the month from 7.30 pm in the small lounge at the Village Hall. For details, see What's On, or our U3A website, or call Tony Claricoates on 277 5251.

THEATRE PROGRAMME



Thurs 14 May	Barnum	£42	Milton Keynes	VH at 12.30 pm, Square 12.35 pm	10 Mar
Wed 10 June	Dead Simple	£31	Milton Keynes	VH at 12.30 pm, Square 12.35 pm	10 Mar
Mon 13 July	Jesus Christ, Superstar	£47	Milton Keynes	VH at 5.30 pm, Square 5.35 pm	12 May
Tues 4 Aug	Jekyll and Hyde	£32	Royal, Nottingham	VH at 5.45 pm, Square 5.50 pm	10 Jun
Thurs 22 Oct	Mary Poppins	£34.50	Curve	MAKE OWN WAY	14 Apr
Wed 4 Nov	The Curious Incident of the Dog in the Night Time	£28	Milton Keynes	VH at 12.30 pm, Square 12.35 pm	14 Apr
Mon 7 Dec	Oliver!	£30	Curve	VH at 6.20 pm, Square 6.25 pm	8 Sept

BARNUM – This exhilarating musical follows the irrepressible imagination and dreams of America’s greatest showman, Phineas T Barnum. Brian Conley stars.

DEAD SIMPLE - an adaptation of the work of best-selling novelist Peter James and the first to feature his now well-known character, Detective Roy Grace.

JESUS CHRIST SUPERSTAR – revival of this well-known rock opera by Lloyd Webber telling the story of Jesus’ last week.

JEKYLL AND HYDE – Dr Jekyll believes that there are two distinct sides to men – one good, one evil. Intent on separating the two, he succeeds in his experiments. However, this unleashes ‘Hyde’, a monstrous and uncontrollable alter ego.

MARY POPPINS comes to Curve. One ticket remains for this show. No coach – make your own way. Offered at a £5 discount on standard price

THE CURIOUS INCIDENT OF THE DOG IN THE NIGHT TIME – The National Theatre’s touring production of Mark Haddon’s award-winning novel, adapted by Simon Stephens, which won 7 Olivier Awards including Best Play in 2013.

OLIVER! Our Christmas musical event at Curve. Good stalls seats, with coach. Join us and enjoy this well-known and very popular production, based on Charles Dickens’ novel, Oliver Twist.

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

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