

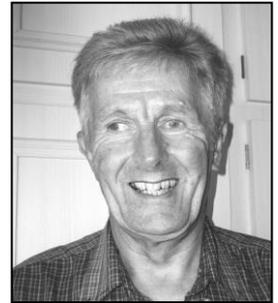
Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter

Oct-Nov 2015

Issue 2015/5

CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER

(TEL: 247 8043)



Hello Everyone!

It's strange isn't it - each year the media regards the summer as the silly season, where they seem to emphasise the quirky side of life; a picture of the Queen on piece of toast for example! Then as the days begin to shorten, in come the big stories. And none bigger than the election of the leader of one of our major political parties - and what a surprise the result was. The significant thing for me is that Mr Corbyn is 66. He could be one of us, except at the moment he is fully employed; although it is acknowledged not to be the most secure of positions - so he could be eligible for the U3A fairly soon! Setting aside any political considerations, it's good to see someone of pensionable age in a position of significant influence.

Another person to catch my eye for an equally important reason was Dr John Eustace. Dr Eustace is 79 and has chosen to row across the Atlantic with his son in December. Now, his son is much younger at 52 and he is experienced at ocean crossing having done it before. Dr Eustace is raising money for charity, but claims he is lucky to have the 'opportunity to do something different'. I'll say! Dr Eustace has written a letter to his son, giving him permission to dispose of his body in the event that something untoward should happen mid-Atlantic. Ever the pragmatist - these older folk!

They are both good examples of the benefits of being involved and engaged with life, whatever your age.

Just two questions pop into mind though. I wonder if Jeremy Corbyn has written a letter and which of the two is most likely to complete the task? I know who my money is on!

Enjoy the autumn with the U3A.

From

Graham Surman
Chairperson

Countesthorpe



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

SOME KEY DIARY DATES: Oct-Nov 2015

Date	Group	Activity	Venue/time
16 Oct	CHEWS Main meeting + weigh-in		9.15 am Lesley's home
18 Oct	Solo Lunch	Ullesthorpe Court	Noon for 12.30 pm
19 Oct	Creative Writing	Theme: "Wind"	2 - 4 pm Brook Court
20 Oct	SWANS	Bradgate Park	10.30 am Hallgate CP
21 Oct	Literature	The Taming of the Queen	2 – 3.30 pm Brook Court
23 Oct	Discussion	Happiness	10.00 am at Shirley's home (3 Laurel Drive)
26 Oct	Country Dancing		2 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
26 Oct	Jazz Appreciation		7.30 pm, 17 Linden Av
28 Oct	Garden Apprec'n	Attenborough Arboretum	10.30 am from VH
29 Oct	Cribbage		2.30 pm, 25 Westview Av
29 Oct	Walking (CARE)	5 miles from the Wharf, Welford + optional pub lunch	9.30 am from Village Hall
3 Nov	SWANS	Brocks Hill Country Park	10.30 am at BHCP car park
4 Nov	Scrabble	Also Upwords & Rummikub	2 – 4.30 pm, Brook Court
4 Nov	Singing for Fun		7 – 8.30 pm Methodist Ch
9 Nov	Science and Technology		12.30 pm Axe & Square
9 Nov	Country Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
10 Nov	Monthly Meeting	China: the Palaces & Great Wall <i>by Roger Hailwood</i>	Doors open 1.30 pm Speaker at 2.00/2.15 pm
15 Nov	Solo Lunch	Venue TBA	Noon for 12.30 pm
16 Nov	Creative Writing	Theme TBA	2 - 4 pm Brook Court
17 Nov	SWANS	Burbage Common	10.30 am Smithy Lane
18 Nov	Literature	Sisters of Sinai (Janet Soskice)	2 – 4 pm Brook Court
20 Nov	Discussion	Has morality made progress?	10.00 am at Jackie's home (4 The Plantation)

Hello U3A-ers in Countesthorpe!

I returned to the village for a week or so to celebrate, on 18 August 2015, my big (80th) birthday with friends and family. It was a wonderful night and weekend, having all four of my children together for the first time in ten years – plus grandchildren and great-grandchildren, and many of their old school friends joined us.

I would have loved to have invited all of you but the walls of the Village Hall don't expand, unfortunately.

Countesthorpe will always be my home, but I am so enjoying living in Exeter near my daughter and family and would like to see any of you if you are in or around Exeter in the future.

Much love to Countesthorpe U3A – from Margaret Woolley



INDIAN SUMMER IN WILTSHIRE!

Fifty-two happy members enjoyed some beautiful late sunshine for their visit to Wiltshire (28 Sept – 1 Oct). On the way down, they enjoyed a visit to Basildon Park – a lovely NT property.

The hotel was well placed for the city centre in Salisbury, and from there a local coach took the group to visit the ancient hillfort of Old Sarum – the beginnings of modern-day Salisbury - before going on to Mottisfont Abbey. This tranquil place has seen many changes – having started life as a medieval priory, before moving through Tudor redevelopments to its current Georgian form, all set in peaceful grounds complete with fast-flowing chalk stream.

The second full day in Salisbury saw the group head for Stonehenge, where a shuttle bus made the trip to the famous stones quite easy. There was time for coffee and to browse the exhibition before returning to the city with an opportunity to explore the magnificent cathedral before joining Blue Badge guides for a fascinating walk around the medieval city. The 800th anniversary of Magna Carta was celebrated with a huge row of 'barons' which were auctioned to raise funds for the Trussell Trust (provider of UK foodbanks).

The return journey included a visit to Hughenden Manor – Disraeli's home and also the site of secret map-making activities which helped the WWII effort. All in all, it was a great trip – greatly enhanced by the lovely Indian Summer weather!

COUNTRY DANCING



Our Folk Dancing Group continues on the second and fourth Monday afternoons (except Bank Holidays) in Countesthorpe Village Hall from 2 until 3.30 pm. The next dates for our Monday afternoon dancing sessions are 26 October and 9 and 23 November. Recently we have added some Maypole Dancing and also Longsword to the usual mix, and plan for some International Dances and also Scottish Country Dancing in the next few weeks.

Please come comfortably dressed and ready to laugh if and when we get into a tangle!

Details from Patsy Paterson on 277 6259

TRAVEL GROUP

Our **Planning and Social Evening** will be held on Tuesday, 27 October from 7.30 pm in the Cornerstone Centre, Countesthorpe. All your ideas for days out and holidays will be most welcome – and your offers of help, too!

It would be helpful if you could indicate your anticipated attendance at the Travel Desk, or call Jill Clayton on 277 7154.



FOREVER NUMBER ONE!

As a member of our U3A you receive a numbered membership card when you join and you then keep this number throughout the years of your membership. Check your own number! Of course, there was a Number One in the beginning; that was Rona Freestone, who was proud to carry her U3A card with its unique number until her death on 22 August this year.

Rona was an active U3A member, attending general meetings and a number of other activities including theatre productions, days out and carpet bowls. She died at home peacefully, after suffering a stroke in her sleep, and her cremation in the new South Leicestershire Crematorium on 7 Sept was very well attended.

Rona will be sadly missed, not only by her family, but by her many friends in the U3A to whom she will remain forever 'Number One'.

HISTORY GROUP

Thurs, 15 Oct: Planning Meeting, 9.45 am – 11.00 am Methodist Room. Please bring your ideas (and offers of help if possible) for next year's programme!

Peter Liddle's talks on The Romans in Leicestershire will recommence at the Methodist Chapel, Wigston Street. 10 am – 12.15 pm. £3 on the door, to include refreshments. No booking required – just turn up on the day.

a) Thurs, 12 Nov: Roman Countryside

b) Thurs, 10 Dec: Roman Religion and Burial

c) Thurs: 14 Jan: The End of Roman Leicestershire and Rutland

Mon, 26 – Thurs, 29 Sept 2016: Short break to Ironbridge Gorge. Still in the final planning stage, but will include a visit to the Museum of Carpet, a 16-mile ride on the Severn Valley Railway, Annual Passport covering all 10 Ironbridge Gorge museums/sites, plus a visit to Much Wenlock (*home of the Olympian Games – remember 'Wenlock' and 'Mandeville' logos for the Olympics in 2012?*), and then Shipton Hall. All to be finalised, but this is the 'shape' of things to come (*does that make sense for a history group?!*) Half-board at the 3* Best Western Valley Hotel + coach travel, etc. As details remain to be finalised, I can only give a rough estimate of costs at this point: £280 pp (shared) or £320 (single room). A deposit of £20 per person by 17 November secures your place.

*For details 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"

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Friday, 27 November at Tastes Restaurant, Leicester College

A VERY FEW PLACES REMAIN. There is a choice of making your own way or travelling by coach. Costs are £22 to include coach transport (or £18 if making your own way), the three-course meal with coffee/tea, all tips, and entry to the prize draw.

Forms available from small lounge or download from website. To be returned with full payment and menu selections by 10 Nov.

REACHING OUT

Do you know anyone who might be feeling a bit out of things, perhaps lacking a little confidence to get out there and make friends or try new things? It is just so easy to slip into a solitary, or even lonely, way of living – perhaps on retirement, or when moving to a new area, or following the loss of a spouse, partner or friend, or even when recovering from an illness.

Whilst we are not short of members in our U3A, we are nevertheless conscious that we have a lot to offer to the 55+ community. So, we are trying to think of ways to reach out to anybody who might really benefit and encourage them to join with us and share in the good things we all enjoy from our U3A.

You will shortly see the poster below in various places in and around the village, and you could help by bringing the U3A to the attention of anyone you think would benefit from membership. We are by no means an 'elitist' organisation; everyone from any walk of life is more than welcome – so do help us 'spread the word'!



55+ and feeling a bit at sea?

Countesthorpe U3A could be just the thing!

**Second Tuesday of each month from 1.30 pm in the Village Hall, PLUS
more than 30 activities to enjoy all year!**

Just £11 per year

Pick up a Newsletter, or 'What's On' from Rainbow shop or library, or visit website:

www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk

People like you, just waiting to say 'Hello'

GARDEN APPRECIATION – our newest group!

The newly formed Garden Appreciation Group is up and running. We have planned the following activities so far:

- **Wed, 28 Oct:** Visit to the **Attenborough Arboretum** (£4.00 guided tour) meeting at the Village Hall 10.30 and travelling in shared cars.
- **Thurs, 26 Nov:** A meeting in the Village Hall lounge commencing at 10.15 am where members can share tips and ideas. £3.00 including tea and coffee.
- There will be no meeting in December.
- **Thurs, 28 Jan:** Meeting at Glebe Gardens at 10.30 am where Bernard will talk about pruning. No charge, but it would be good if attendees purchased a drink and perhaps a scone/cake?
- **Thurs, 25 Feb:** Visit to **Hodsock Hall** to see the snowdrops. £22.50 Details to be finalised, and bookings taken from 28 October.

Details from Ruth on 277 1533 or see her at the general meeting.

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!

BIRDWATCHING

There will be no reserve visit in October. Indoor activities resume on 5 November with a talk by Sue Wyllie on the “Birds of Botswana” in the small lounge at the Village Hall, 7.30 – 8.30 pm. Our ‘Group Social’ will be on 3 December, 7.30 – 9.00 pm in the small lounge.

From then on, our regular group meetings will be 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.



**U3A DIARIES NOW AVAILABLE FROM TREASURER’S DESK IN LOBBY
JUST £2, GET YOURS WHILE STOCKS LAST!**

THEATRE PROGRAMME



Wed 28 Oct	Funny Money	£20	Market Harboro'	Leys at 6.40 pm VH at 6.45 pm Square at 6.50 pm	8 Sept
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
Tues 26 Jan	The Royal Baccarat Scandal	£20	Market Harboro'	Leys at 6.40 pm VH at 6.45 pm Square at 6.50 pm	8 Dec
Tues 16 Feb	Chess	£18	Concordia, Hinckley	Leys at 6.25 pm VH at 6.30 pm Square at 6.35pm	13 Oct
Wed 13 Apr	Betrayal	£20	Market Harboro'	Leys at 6.40 pm VH at 6.45 pm Square at 6.50 pm	8 Mar

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.

FUNNY MONEY – a comedy by Ray Cooney. Henry Perkins is a mild-mannered chap, who picks up the wrong briefcase, full of used £50 notes which he assumes is illicit cash. He decides to keep it – now he and his wife can go anywhere (until the doorbell rings as they are about to depart)!

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.

THE ROYAL BACCARAT SCANDAL - based on the book of the same name, tell the story of the 1890 Victorian scandal in which Sir William Gordon Cumming (baronet and personal friend of the Prince of Wales) was accused by his mistress's husband of cheating at baccarat. When the news became public knowledge, Sir William felt obliged to sue for scandal . . .

CHESS – THE MUSICAL. By Tim Rice and the 'boys' from ABBA

BETRAYAL by Harold Pinter explores the effects of an adulterous affair on the spouses, their illicit lovers, their family and friends. Reputedly, the play is based on an actual love affair between the playwright and a BBC arts reporter

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!**