

Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter



Dec 2012 – Jan 2013

Issue 2012/6

Chairperson's Letter

(Tel: 277 4187)

Dear Friends

This time I will start with a look at the wider U3A in the Leicestershire and Rutland network.

There are 21 U3As with a wide range of activities – 135 different activity groups (more if you distinguish between beginner's German, conversational German and advanced German – similarly for several other languages, living and dead).

Depending on which U3As you join you can do a walk every day of the week, study History, study wine, knit and natter (4 U3As) or Pergamano (I'll leave you to find out what that is!)

This illustrates that the U3A keeps us supple in both mind and body.

What happened today (11 December) in the past:

- 1936 Abdication of Edward VIII
- 1803 Hector Berlioz born
- 1843 Robert Koch born – identified anthrax, TB and cholera bacilli, awarded Nobel Prize

On behalf of your committee I wish you a very Happy Christmas and a Peaceful New Year

From

Barry Hillyard
Chairperson

Countesthorpe



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

DIARY DATES: Dec 2012 – Jan 2013

Date	Group	Activity	Venue/time
17 Dec	Creative Writing	Theme: 'Manoeuvring'	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
18 Dec	SWANS	Town Hall Square and New Walk (coffee at Museum)	By bus; meet 10.30 am on corner of Town Hall Sq
19 Dec	Literature	Trust Me, I'm a Junior Doctor	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
21 Dec	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Margaret's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
28 Dec	Discussion	Hot News	10 am at Carole's home

PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING CHANGES TO DECEMBER ACTIVITY GROUPS

No meetings this month for these groups: - **Play Reading, Walking (CARE), Folk Dancing, Photography, Classical Music and Solo Sunday Lunch**

Carpet Bowls: No meetings 19 and 26 December, nor 2 January

SWANS – no walk on 1 January

Singing for Fun – no meeting 2 January

8 Jan	Monthly Meeting	Collecting Second-hand books <i>David Siddons</i>	<i>Village Hall from 1.30 pm</i> <i>Speaker at 2.15 pm</i>
9 Jan	Flower Arranging		Village Hall 2 – 4 pm
18 Jan	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Jenny's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
13 Jan	Solo Lunch	Venue TBA	Noon for 12.30 pm
14 Jan	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
15 Jan	SWANS	Bede Park	9.45-ish bus to Bonners Lane
16 Jan	Literature	Thursdays in the Park by Hilary Boyd	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
17 Jan	History	Talk on Early Prehistoric Leicestershire by Peter Liddle	10 am – noon OPEN to ALL MEMBERS Methodist Room £4
19 Jan	Photography	Leics photos for project	6.30 – 8 pm Methodist Room
21 Jan	Creative Writing	Theme: TBA. Please bring 2/3 pieces for selection for booklet	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
25 Jan	Discussion	Alcohol Abuse	10 am at Edith's home
28 Jan	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall

KNOW SOMEONE WHO CAN'T GET TO MEETINGS?

If you do, then perhaps you would be kind enough to take them a copy of the monthly What's On and the bi-monthly Newsletter. There are always spare copies in the display stands in the lobby.

Also, Group Leaders are encouraged to take a few copies for people in their groups who do not come to the monthly gatherings, so that they are kept up to date with what's happening and can join in if they wish.

U3A GET WELL CARDS

If anyone knows of anyone in the U3A who is ill and who would appreciate a 'Get Well Soon' card from friends in the U3A, then please telephone Sheila Holmes on 277 2131 with the details.

SCRABBLE

group needs more members!

We meet on the first Wednesday of every month in the residents' lounge at Brook Court, in Countesthorpe, from 2 to 4.30 pm. All levels of players welcome with tuition for beginners, and we have a large print board.

Upwords and Rummikub games are also available with tuition if required.

For more details contact Lesley Woodward, Group Leader, on 278 7972.

FOLK DANCING

Dates for your new diaries for Folk Dancing of various sorts will be 14th and 28th January and 11th and 25th February.

We dance between 2 and 3.30 pm in Countesthorpe Village Hall and recommend comfortable shoes, layers of clothing in case you get very energetic and so hot - and a sense of humour. You do not need to come with a partner; we all join in with whoever turns up!



Details from Patsy Paterson on 277 6259

POMPEII EXHIBITION

At the British Museum, London

Thursday, 2 May 2013

AD 79. In just 24 hours, two cities in the Bay of Naples in southern Italy were buried by a catastrophic eruption of Mount Vesuvius. Preserved under ash, their rediscovery nearly 1.700 years later provided an unparalleled glimpse into the daily life of the Roman Empire. From the bustling street to the intimate spaces of a Roman home, this exhibition will take you to the heart of people's lives in Pompeii and Herculaneum.

Just 53 seats available on this coach trip departing at 9.00 am from Village Hall, with possible additional pick-up points in the Square, Cross-roads (nr College) and Western Drive. £26. Book with Jenny at Travel desk in small lounge. *(Trip organised by Barry)*

METAL DETECTING GROUP

There has been sufficient interest to start this group, BUT as yet no-one has come forward who is willing to facilitate the group. You do not need to be an expert in metal detecting, but in order for the group to be viable, it MUST have a leader. So, if no-one is willing to take on this role, then the group cannot be formed. It is NOT an onerous role, and support is available



If you would be interested, please ring Marlene on 277 9162 (preferably in the evening) and she will be pleased to provide information and support.

PERGAMANO is the art of embellishing and decorating parchment paper (or vellum paper) through the use of techniques such as embossing, perforating, stippling, cutting and colouring. Used mainly in the making of cards, but the techniques may be applied to items such as bookmarks and picture frames. *(Wikipedia)*

ARCHAEOLOGY

NB In future, this group will be known as 'HISTORY'

A planning meeting was held on 22 November to establish a provisional programme for 2013. After discussion, it was agreed to hold a series of six talks by Peter Liddle (former County Archaeologist) during the winter months, each introducing a period of the County's history, and to use these themes as a loose framework for a variety of visits in the intervening months. A number of group members will be involved in putting the programme into effect.

Shirley will also be organising the third of the Welford Cemetery visits in the springtime, in addition to the outline programme below. Actual dates and details will be confirmed in due course, but so far it looks like this

- 17 Jan: Talk: Early Prehistoric Leicestershire (First humans to farmers and introduction of metal)
- 14 Feb: Talk: Iron Age Leicestershire (Hillforts and beginnings of urban life before Roman Conquest)
- 14 Mar: Talk: Roman Leicestershire (Transformation during the 400 years as part of the Roman Empire)
- April: Nottingham Caves and Tunnels (+ Museum of Justice?)
- May: Wall Roman site, lunch and Lichfield Cathedral)
- June: Stokesay Castle and Ludlow Food Centre/Land of Lost Content
- July: Burrough Hill fort (and excavations?)
- Aug: Wrest Park, Bedfordshire
- Sept:: Pugin's Church (St Giles) at Cheadle (+ another venue TBA)
- Oct: Anglo-Saxon Re-enactment
- Oct/Nov: Talk: Early Anglo-Saxon Leicestershire (Exploration of life and death through archaeological discoveries) + Planning Meeting for 2014
- Nov: Talk: Mercian, Viking and Norman Leicestershire (The heart of Mercia, until the Viking invaders)
- Dec: Talk: Medieval Leicestershire (Villages, open fields, castles and abbeys, plus famine, pestilence and war)

If you would like to receive details of our History activities by email, please give your email address to June to be added to the circulation list.

For more details, contact June on 277 6330 or by email at jhawkins45@talktalk.net

Latest copy dates for your contributions!

- Wed, 2 Jan for January 2013 issue of What's On and website
- Wed, 6 Feb for the February What's On, Newsletter and website

Editor: June Hawkins (tel) 277 6330, (email) jhawkins45@talktalk.net or by post to 30 Marston Crescent, Countesthorpe.

TRAVEL GROUP REPORT 2012

The Travel Group has enjoyed another year of day outings and the annual visit to Wengen in Switzerland. Day outings began with a very interesting trip to Loughborough where we viewed the Museum followed by a visit to Taylor's Bellfoundry. We learned that there are now only two firms producing bells in the UK, Whitechapel Bellfoundry in London and Taylor's in Loughborough. They have a world-wide reputation for quality; this was borne out for me when I heard on the news that the bells damaged in the New Zealand earthquake had been returned to Taylor's for repair or renewal! It was fascinating to see the processes which go into the production of bells and to me the highlight was the walk through the area where the bells were cast.

Many thanks to Barry Hillyard for arranging our trip to the De Vinci Exhibition at the National Gallery in London in February. We had time to tour the many Galleries and view this popular exhibition without the extensive queues which were evident outside the building. Barry is arranging a visit to the Pompeii Exhibition at the British Museum on 2 May 2013.

In late March, on what turned out to be a very warm day, we visited the Olympics Site and, accompanied by London Walks Guides, we walked from Stratford Tube Station to the Olympic site where we were given a very good overview of how it had all been planned and how it would all operate during the Olympics. This was followed mid-May by a visit to the Spring Flower Show at Malvern; again we were lucky with the weather because the day before our visit the show had almost been washed out with a huge amount of rain. Many group members bought mementos in the way of plants and items for the garden.

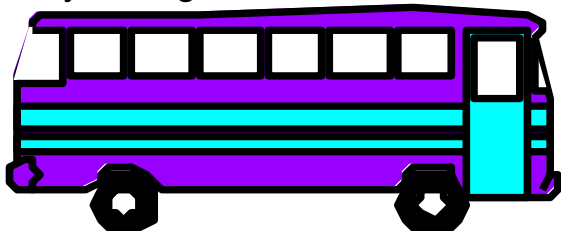
In May a small group visited Paris using the Eurostar train – a new experience for many of us in the party. We had a guided bus tour on our first morning in Paris followed by a boat trip on the Seine and then free time to walk around the sights, visit one of the many museums or simply enjoy the tourist bus allowing one to get on and off at will. On our last day in Paris, Barry Hillyard arranged a group visit to Versailles which was spectacular in its opulence.

In early June we visited Baddesley Clinton and Packwood House; unfortunately I was unable to go due to minor illness, but I soon found a kindly stand-in, Barry Hillyard – many thanks. Barry reported that the day to these National Trust properties had gone well

Mid-June was given over to our week in Wengen. This year a larger than usual party travelled so that I was able to reduce the cost significantly! As I have stated on many occasions the scenery is absolutely stunning, but only if it is not enveloped in cloud! This year, again, we were so lucky because the weather before we arrived was cold, wet and cloudy. We did have a little rain, but we also enjoyed some lovely weather and very clear days to make the most of the views and the flowers. Everyone enjoyed the holiday and many of our U3A first-time visitors are making a return visit on our 2013 visit to Wengen!

After a Summer break, we visited the town of Tewkesbury, where we were taken on a guided walk and viewed old buildings and architecture in this historical town. We had just enough time to view the Abbey and take a quick lunch before the coach drove through some very pleasant countryside to Weston's Cider factory. We enjoyed a tour of the cider factory where we were shown the processes which go into the production of cider. This was followed by a lovely tasting session and quite a few members solved some of their Christmas shopping problems with bottles of cider (or that's what they told me)! Again, a very bad weather forecast had us all taking our waterproofs; in the event the only shower we experienced was when we were touring the cider factory.

Our last outing this year was the visit to the Houses of Parliament. As last year, the group visited by invitation from our local MP, the Rt Hon Andrew Robathan. We entered by the Westminster Hall entrance and having passed through 'security' we met our guides who explained much of the history which has given rise to many of the customs which are still observed today. We marvelled at the architecture of the buildings, viewed paintings depicting historical battles and events, were shown the monarch's entrance and visited the Queen's robing room and the House of Lords. After lunch we were given tickets to visit the public gallery of either the House of Commons or Lords, where we listened to debates which were taking place on amendments to Acts relating to Health and Safety at Work; we were also lucky enough to witness a 'division' take place. We then met in the Central Lobby



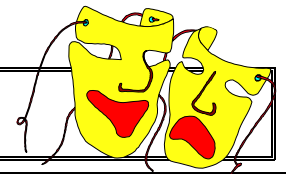
to be escorted to the terrace for afternoon tea. As Andrew Robathan had been called away we met another MP – Alec Shelbrook – MP for Leeds. He talked of his experiences as an MP new to this Parliament and how, on being elected, he had been inundated with emails

and telephone calls questioning him on matters of which he knew very little; which necessitated a very steep learning curve! He also told us that the 'maiden speech' was not such an ordeal as following speeches because no interruptions are allowed whereas in the case of later speeches MPs could interrupt and ask questions which sometimes required very quick, 'on your feet', thinking. In answer to a question from one of our group on Europe he explained some of the problems and likely implications for UK business of decisions relating to Europe (I wonder how he voted on the EU Budget). This visit was arranged and accompanied by Mrs Ruth Morrison who, before retirement, worked with the local Conservative Association – many thanks to Ruth.

I think you will agree that this year's outings have been very varied and interesting. This is due to you, the members of Countesthorpe U3A, because they are all your suggestions. Next year's plans include a week's holiday by coach to Llandudno and area, a week in Wengen in early September and a day outing to the British Museum to view the Pompeii Exhibition on 2 May. Please can you help me by completing one of my suggestion forms for both day outings and longer breaks and possibly a week's coach holiday in 2014. No matter what it is, please let me know so that I can give it consideration.

Jenny Mills

THEATRE PROGRAMME



Thurs 31 Jan	Sleeping Beauty	£25	Milton Keynes	12.30 pm	11 Dec
Tues* 19 Mar	The Deep Blue Sea	£16	Market Harborough	6.45 pm	12 Feb
Tues* 16 Apr	The Full Monty	£18	Loughborough Town Hall	6.00 pm	12 Mar
Thurs 9 May	Billy Elliot	£35	Victoria Palace, London	9.15 am	15 Jan

SLEEPING BEAUTY: Matthew Bourne's modern interpretation of this favourite ballet completes his 'Tchaikovsky trio'.

THE DEEP BLUE SEA: (*Terence Rattigan*) Hester left her husband for a semi-alcoholic former RAF pilot, but their passionate affair is fading. Must she live like this, emotionally stranded and desperate, or is there a way out?

THE FULL MONTY: Production by the ESNA players of this well-known tale, but with a twist – set in New York rather than the UK. Not to be missed!

BILLY ELLIOT – the musical: Set in a northern mining town, against the background of the 1984/'85 miners' strike, Billy Elliot is the inspirational story of a young boy's struggle against the odds to make his dream come true.

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

*** SORRY, DUE TO ZUMBA CLASSES THERE IS NO PARKING AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY EVENINGS – AFFECTING 'THE DEEP BLUE SEA' and 'THE FULL MONTY' THE COACH WILL PICK UP AT THE LEYS, THE VILLAGE HALL AND THE SQUARE – TRY PARKING IN CO-OP OR CENTRAL STREET CAR PARK (THIS IS FREE AFTER 6 PM)**

PLEASE REMEMBER TO INDICATE YOUR PREFERRED PICK-UP POINT WHEN BOOKING YOUR SEAT! ALSO, IT WOULD BE HELPFUL IF YOU WOULD PLEASE STICK TO YOUR CHOICE, TO AVOID THE COACH WAITING UNNECESSARILY