

Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter

June 2017

Issue 2017/1

CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER

Hello Everyone

This is my first letter as your new chairman – a position that I was not expecting quite so soon - as it was necessary for David Wild to relinquish this post in order to use his IT expertise on the complex, time-consuming task of organising and managing our membership database. So, I am looking forward to my new role and hope that I fulfil it without dropping too many clangers. (Which, I'll admit, I do regularly within the hand-bell group!)



As a relatively new addition to the committee, I have come to appreciate the amount of organisational work that members put in for the benefit of our 420+ members, to ensure that our U3A continues to thrive by providing a wide variety of interests and activities. Committee responsibilities vary from ensuring that speakers are arranged, finances are managed and to the effective oversight of all the differing U3A activities that take place within the village.

Moving to the more mundane, it was vital to ensure that our guiding principles in the form of our constitution were updated, and fully compliant with expectations and demands required by The Third Age Trust. This was a major task. A considerable amount of time was recently spent in formulating and submitting a document which not only reflected our own needs, but which conformed to the requirements laid down by our national regulatory body. It would be irresponsible for us to do otherwise as this could leave our organisation in a vulnerable position if our constitution lacked this endorsement.

At the time of writing, the sun has got his hat on, and summer looks to be well on the way. Our programme for this year continues to provide a variety of activities, visits and trips. Please do take full advantage of them.

I cannot end without saying how pleased we are to welcome three new members onto the committee (Eunice Lucas, Sherry Burditt and Sheila Baldwin – see committee details later in the Newsletter or online).

With best wishes to you all.

Peter Bradbury
Chairperson

(TEL: 277 5881)

U3A HELPS TO KEEP THE LIBRARY GOING!

You may be aware that Countesthorpe Library is now run by the Parish and is not a County Library any more. Whilst Sophi Matts is there as Library Assistant whenever the Library is open, the work of volunteers is essential in maintaining this facility for the community. Our U3A has provided slightly more than half of the current total volunteers. If anyone would be interested in volunteering, please contact Sophi at the Library on 0116 305 3527 or email her on: cpcouncil.librarian@gmail.com

Also, if you would like to donate books please note that, whilst most books are very welcome, they should be fiction, published within the last five years, preferably *not* hardback and be in good condition. Just take them along! Any books that can't be added to stock can be added to the Library's sale shelves, with the proceeds going back into the library.

Over the coming months, there will be some exciting changes taking place to make the Library even more of a community hub. Watch this space!

If anyone has ideas to improve our Newsletter, then I would be very grateful to hear from you – just contact me by phone on 277 6330 or by email at jhawkins45@talktalk.net

CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2017

This year, our lunch will be held at Taste Restaurant at Leicester College on **Friday, 1 December**

Places are limited to 100 with booking forms available (usually in September, once the students have started their year and planned the menu) on which to select your choice of starter, main and dessert courses and also to indicate whether you will travel on the coach or make your own way there.

Bookings are strictly “first come, first served” with the return of a completed form accompanied by full payment.

Watch out, don't ***miss*** out!

CHAIRPERSON'S REPORT TO ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

The U3A is a national organisation and we owe it a great deal in terms of how we meet on a monthly basis and how we set up our groups. They provide us with insurance and give us the aim to: **Learn, Laugh, Live!**

When looking at the question of where we are I am tempted to take stock of what we have achieved, not just this year but in previous years. I would suggest that these U3A aims are being totally supported. We have a huge strength in our groups, and currently have:

Activity Groups – 11 groups promoting physical health and activity

Creative Groups – 5 groups encouraging us to learn new arts or skills

Game-based Groups – 6 groups encouraging social gathering and learning

Learning Groups – 7 groups helping us to learn new skills

Music Groups – 3 groups promoting the learning and enjoyment of music

Social Groups – 6 groups where we can meet people and gather together

Information on all these groups is available on-line and on cards in our entrance-hall. Please stay aware of what we offer and also consider whether there are any groups you could possibly introduce to our organisation. We have a great deal going for us but it is only as a result of work put in by ourselves and particularly our group leaders and group members. Many thanks to all concerned.

One change facing us at the moment is the resignation of Sue Wyllie from the role of Treasurer and Membership Secretary. She has given us the benefit of her vast know-how and experience for a very long period. We will be sad to see her go although, of course, we will continue to value her friendship within our organisation.

Our parent organisation has revised its model constitution in recent years and we have decided to revise our own constitution to follow the national pattern, subject to the approval of the AGM. Copies of our proposed constitution have been made available on-line and prints have been available at the last two meetings.

David Wild, Chairperson to 9 May 2017

WHY CHANGE THE CONSTITUTION?

Many of you may be questioning the need for this and so, especially if you were not at the AGM, perhaps the following points may help to clarify the reasons:

- Like every organisation, each U3A has to change in order to respond to the changing needs of its members and the developing ways of life.
- Our 'umbrella organisation' (The Third Age Trust) recently updated the model constitution on which all U3As base their own.
- We needed to increase the committee size from 10 to 12, as . . .
 - Firstly, the roles of Treasurer and Membership Secretary, previously filled by Sue Wyllie, have had to be split.
 - Secondly, as our use of technology has increased we need a Technical Officer, especially to support monthly meetings.
 - Thirdly, as we continue to improve our communication with members – notably through the website – the role of Publicity and Information Officer has expanded.
 - We also felt it important not to overload individual committee members, so have agreed that no-one normally should hold more than one identified role.

Perhaps it should be said that printed copies of the draft Constitution were available at the April and May meetings and also online, to allow perusal before asking members to approve it at the AGM.

Also, there was some disquiet that we had increased the subscriptions in April but only asked for the membership's approval for this the following month in May, at the AGM. We are fully aware of this anomaly, but our financial year commences on 1 April, and our AGM is always the following month. At the meeting in April, on the slide presentation, we explained this and stated that anybody who wished to wait until formal approval for the increase had been granted and then renew in May after the AGM, would be more than welcome to do so. However, it is very difficult to predict a full year ahead, and so we took the decision to pre-empt the membership's approval for the small increase. *(Incidentally, we did the same thing a few years back when the subscriptions were reduced, and we had no complaints! 😊)*

We hope that the above is helpful to members in understanding the reasons for the changes to the Constitution and also the anomalous situation relating to the subscriptions.

Visit to Morgan Car Factory Wednesday, 15 March 2017

Twenty-two members enjoyed an enthralling day at the Morgan Factory in Malvern. Our 2-hour guided tour commenced with a 10-minute video and we learned how one young man's dream to build his personally-designed motorbike led on to building motorbikes for friends. This was the catalyst for the design of the iconic 3-wheeler Morgan Sports Car. The company, which was founded in 1909, is the last remaining family-owned independent motor manufacturer. The 4-wheeled model began production in 1936 and the 4/4 is the world's 'longest-running production vehicle'!

Morgan Sports Cars are built for quality and speed. Should you want to buy a Morgan, you would need to speak to a dealer who has a limited number of 'build slots' allocated to him each year, and so would begin the process of specifying your choices including both external and internal colours, composition of dash-board, ie polished wood or other material, and many other details which go to creating your own bespoke car. A newly-completed example was shown to us, which I can only describe as 'shocking pink'! Internally the upholstery was of leather, dyed to match the rest of the car. More than 70% of their production is for export and the pink car was destined for China!

The first workshop we entered was situated at the top of a slope where the engine was fitted into the aluminium chassis. Each car was worked on only by one employee so that, although there were two or three people working in the same workshop, they were all working on their own particular car. The engines all appeared to be very powerful with a very high brake horsepower; producers included Peugeot, Jaguar, Ford Cosworth, etc. Each car was fitted with temporary wheels and when the workshop 1 stage of production was completed the car was rolled down the hill into the next workshop. Of particular interest was the workshop dealing with the wooden mould placed on to the chassis. All the wood was ash and came from Lincolnshire. We were told that for each tree felled, 3 new trees were planted. We saw how wooden strips were glued together to aid strength and moulded to the lines of the car. We also saw examples of polished wood which could be used for the dashboard – they were absolutely beautiful.

When it came to the paint shop we were not actually allowed in, but we were told that there were in excess of 40,000 shades on offer and that each car had 10 coats of paint and lacquer. Standard upholstery was in black or beige, but it was possible (for a small fee) to choose a colour to match the exterior of the car (the small fee became much larger if, as in the case of the pink car, the leather had to be dyed as a one-off).

It was great to see their workmen taking such a pride in their own work and the process of the hand-built cars.

The visit ended with time to look at the museum, a visit to the gift shop and, of course, the restaurant which offered home-made pasties, sausage rolls and cakes! Unfortunately there were no free samples, but one of our members did get to sit in the guide's own Morgan!

Report by Jenny Mills

MEET THE COMMITTEE FOR 2017-8

PETER BRADBURY (Chairperson) was born in Leicester and moved to Countesthorpe in 1968 with his wife Winifred. In 1978 the family moved to Sapcote, though an affinity with Countesthorpe has always remained. After teaching in Wigston schools for 36 years, Peter fully retired from his management and consultancy posts in 2007. He enjoys spending as much time as possible with family and especially his nine grandchildren. Peter joined the U3A in 2010 and participates in hand bells, art, history, bird-watching, travel and groups. He enjoys DIY, reading, classical music and history, as well as voluntary work within Sapcote.



GRAHAM COX (Treasurer) has been a member since 2008, having taken early retirement in 2002 from Insurance Broking. Married to Jane, they set up home in Countesthorpe in 1969 before moving to Narborough in 1978. He has been an active member of the Scout Association, holding both Leader and Commissioner Warrants. His hobbies include carpet bowls, walking, horology including restoration of mechanical clocks, book collecting, gardening and decorating.



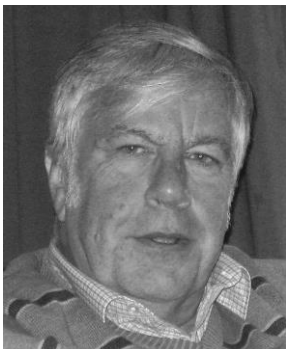
CHRIS CLARICOATES (Secretary) was born on the Isle of Wight and lived there for 14 years before her move to Countesthorpe. Married to Tony, they have three children who all attended local schools. Chris taught at Leysland High school for 25 years before her retirement and she now enjoys participating in the U3A History, Theatre, Fit for Life, Country Dancing and Birdwatching groups.



SHERRY BURDITT (Vice-chairperson) moved to Countesthorpe in 1972. Married to Michael, they have two sons who both attended the village schools from nursery to sixth form. Having worked at a city secondary school she finally fully retired from her educational management and consultancy roles in 2015. Initially trained as an artist/ designer she is, at last, finding the time to develop her own artwork. She is also taking the opportunity to improve her bridge game at the U3A Bridge Group, to reconnect with old friends and spend time with her 4 lovely grandchildren.



DAVID WILD (Membership Secretary) is married to Ursula. He is not native to this area but was soon hooked on village life after buying a house in Countesthorpe in 1978. He retired in February 2008 from a database-design career in insurance and quickly found that the U3A offered a very warm welcome. He enjoys a rewarding time with History Group trips, Sci/Tech meetings, Pilates, walks and the warm buzz of the committee meetings. He also runs the Guitar group.



URSULA WILD (Groups Co-ordinator) was born in Lancashire, married to David, and moved to Countesthorpe in 1978 where she was soon involved in all aspects of village life, including supply teaching in most of the local schools. She finally settled at St John Fisher Catholic Primary School and stayed there until retirement. She has become involved in many U3A activities, including History, Folk Dancing, Walking and Theatre. She is also the Group Leader for Pilates, and her other hobbies include Travel, Lace-making and French Twinning Activities.



JUNE HAWKINS (Publicity and Information) has lived in Countesthorpe since 1979 and been a U3A member since 2004. Since retirement from her senior management post in 2008, and also running a small business she now enjoys U3A Travel, Creative Writing, Literature, Discussion, Nordic Walking and SWANS groups, and is also Group Leader for Theatre and History. She maintains the website and produces the What's On, Newsletter, group activity leaflets and the monthly slide presentation. She has also edited the four 'Creative Writing Miscellanies'.



HELEN BULL (Speaker Finder) Helen has lived in Blaby for 50 years. On retirement from her post at Brockington College she sought a social/interest group to fill her anticipated spare time and has found companionship through involvement in the U3A, enjoying many aspects, including the monthly meetings and the Theatre, Literature, History and Walking groups. Outside the U3A, Helen's interests include frequent visits to her 3 children and 6 grandchildren, gardening, yoga and knitting.



BARRY HILLYARD (Technical Support Officer) has been a member since 2006, a year before his retirement from teaching mathematics and IT. Married to Pat, he has lived in Countesthorpe for 40 years, and has been involved with the Methodist Church and the Scouts. His hobbies include computers and photography. He runs the U3A Carpet Bowls, Computer, Nordic Walking and Beginners' Photography groups, and participates in Photography, History, Walking and Travel.



BERYL LISHMAN has lived in Countesthorpe for over 25 years. She has two, now grown-up, girls who attended the local schools and college and is a retired primary school teacher who joined the U3A in 2014 when working part-time. She attends the Literature group, and the Tuesday meetings when possible and has been on several theatre trips. Apart from the U3A, she sings in the South Wigston Sing4fun choir and is a member of the Leicester Footpaths Association, as well as spending one day a week caring for her latest granddaughter. She welcomes the chance for more U3A involvement by serving on the committee.



EUNICE LUCAS is a retired schoolteacher and journalist. Eunice's family came to Countesthorpe in 1940 and she moved to her present home in Peatling Magna in 1974. She graduated from Leicester University before taking teaching posts at Whetstone Primary and Linden Junior schools. Her interests include walking, swimming, gardening, holidays, reading, sewing, cryptic crosswords and freelance writing. She belongs to the Lutterworth Choral Society, serves as secretary to the Peatling Magna Parish meeting and is a member of all the village committees. She thoroughly enjoys the social activities, especially Nordic and CARE Walking groups and theatre trips.



SHEILA BALDWIN moved to Countesthorpe from Twickenham in 1973. Both of her children were educated in the village, and she now has 4 grandchildren, 2 of whom also attend the local schools. A U3A member for about 3 years, she enjoys walking with SWANS, Pilates and trips out. Her outside interests include supporting the Leicester Tigers, walking, swimming and visiting her grandchildren.



NEWS FROM SOME OF THE GROUPS

Full details can be found on our website (www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk), on the coloured Activity Groups List, the monthly 'What's On', or in the leaflets in the display racks at monthly meetings in the Village Hall foyer

Country Dancing

(Patsy Paterson on 277 6259)

A friendly group meet up on the second and fourth Monday afternoons of the month in Countesthorpe Village Hall to join in some of Britain's country dances and we also branch out a little to try Morris Dancing, Garland Dancing, some Scottish Country Dance, and International Dance – and around this time of year some fancy plaiting round the Maypole. True to U3A tradition we laugh a lot and don't take it all too seriously. There is always room for newcomers, so why not give us a visit? Come between 2 and 3.30 pm dressed suitably for the activity — and if you want to say "Hello" beforehand ask at the monthly meeting or phone in to 277 6259 to introduce yourself.

Allotment Gardening

(Glenys Catterall-Annal on 277 2495)

Once again, we have been appealing for some new members to take on the allotment. We have taken out a further year's rental but, unless we find enough replacement members, the group will fold and the equipment will have to be found new homes. There is a real opportunity to 'grow your own' produce and enjoy a healthy hobby at the same time. There is a need to be flexible, as the weather often affects the day and time for gardening! The allotment can support about 4 or perhaps 5 people. A few people have come forward, but we urge you to contact Glenys if you are interested in continuing the allotment and saving it from being lost permanently to the U3A after the autumn.

CHEWS

(Ruth on 277 1533)

Due to falling membership, it has been decided to meet only on the third Friday of every month at 9.45 am for an hour or so. Venues will be at various members' houses, so ring for details if you would like to join us.

Kurling

(Ian Paterson on 277 6259)

There are gatherings for this adaptation of the game, which is played on ice as Curling, every Wednesday in Countesthorpe Village Hall between 11 am and 12 noon. £1 for a great hour's fun (or serious competition if you like), and a little light exercise as well!

History

(June Hawkins on 277 6330)

Peter Liddle gave us three interesting talks on the Anglo-Saxons in Leicestershire during the winter months, and we began our programme of outings with a visit to the GWR Museum in Swindon (which also happened to be next to a designer outlet and the NT headquarters – so there was something for everyone!) We've also enjoyed the Museum of Childhood and Sudbury Hall, a fascinating heritage trail around Billdesdon, and a visit to the old village of Castle Acre near Swaffham with its ancient castle and priory.

Coming up is a visit to the restored Hill Close Victorian allotments and the town of Warwick, then it's off to Sapcote (for the second part of a walk led by a local historian). Next comes a coach trip to Wrest Park, followed by Duxford Imperial War Museum. Our short break at the end of September will be to Durham and will include free time in the city, with visits to Beamish Open Air Museum, Harewood House and Kirkstall Abbey. October sees our next Planning Meeting, and then Peter Liddle's series of talks on the Anglo-Saxons concludes in November, December and January. There will be a talk by John Martin on 'Volcanoes, Deserts and Ice – the Geological Story of Bradgate Park' in February before we begin our 2018 programme of outings. Watch for details!

Many thanks to all who have contributed with ideas and help with organising our various events. These are open to all Countesthorpe U3A members, so why not try one or two this coming year – you'll be very welcome. Also, why not come along to our Planning Meeting at the Methodist Chapel on Thursday, 19 October starting at 10 am, until 11 am. We'd love to hear your ideas for our next programme of events!

Signing for the Deaf

(Patsy on 277 6259)

We, in the 'Signing' Activity Group, meet twice a month on Tuesday mornings for an hour or so. As we feel the need to do a large revision of all that we have learned over the years, this would be a good time for anyone to join us and learn signing from scratch.

If you are interested please do get in touch, and we hope to see you!

Solo Sunday Lunch

(Sheila Holmes on 277 2131)

SSL seems to be moving along nicely with between 20 and 27 people appearing each month. A few disappeared when I refused to look for a new venue each month, but no-one has since offered to take us to any new places. Ullesthorpe Court and the staff there are very helpful, and the young waiting staff are cheerful and smiling. We are still keeping the group closed at the moment. Thanks to Diana (and sometimes Hilary) for being there to collect the money – such a great help!

Creative Writing

(Mikki Wilde on 277 5509)

We've been trying some new ideas over the winter. One of our members began a story (based on his personal experience) and then this was passed on sequentially to other members to add their contributions to the tale. A couple of people felt unable to add to this story, but all enjoyed the experience. At the end we discussed the whole experiment, the plots, the continuity issues and possible endings and whether we might do this again. A few of our members have offered to come up with ideas for different endings, and we are all wracking our brains for a good title. So, the story is not quite done yet!

We also tried out an idea from the national creative writing newsletter – writing a piece in a diamond pattern. Starting with one word on the first line, two words on the second and so on up to seven words then reducing back down, one word per line at a time to a single word. This proved fascinating, and quite a discipline; there were some very unusual ideas. Very often we all have completely different interpretations, but for once this exercise produced three pieces all featuring acorns and oak trees.

We begin each month by distributing back to the authors copies of last month's writing with members' comments, then go on to read the current month's pieces. Copies are then distributed to the four 'envelopes' denoting the sub-groups, so that we can re-read at our leisure and provide feedback for next month. And so the cycle goes on! We always have a good time (starting with refreshments!), so why not come and join us on the third Monday of the month at 2 pm in the residents' lounge at Brook Court?

Garden Appreciation

(Ruth Westley on 277 1533)

This group continues to flourish, as all good gardens do! We learn from experts and each other. This year began with a planning meeting, followed by a trip to Anglesey Abbey – a stunningly beautiful winter garden. We have also had a speaker, and made several visits to various members' gardens which have been very enjoyable. Our visit to Hill Close Gardens and Warwick is in conjunction with the History Group. We will have a guided tour of refurbished Victorian Allotments, before free time to enjoy Warwick itself. Another combined trip (with Travel and Literature) is to Cambridge in July – with opportunities to visit the Botanical Gardens and also the Pepys Library. Lots more interesting activities are in planned – so do come along and join us.

Nordic Walking

(Barry Hillyard on 277 4187)

If you can gently swing your arms when you walk, then you can 'do' Nordic walking. Join the 'tenacious few' at 9.30 am on the second and fourth Tuesday of the month at the Willoughby Road playing fields for about an hour's pleasant and relaxing exercise. No mud, no stiles, and no cost – what could be better?

Theatre

(June Hawkins on 277 6330)

We are taking a short break over the summer period as so many members are busy with gardens, holidays and such like! We look forward to our final visit before the break to see *Jane Eyre* at Milton Keynes theatre. We have enjoyed some good performances recently, including *The Red Shoes* (Matthew Bourne), an excellent comedy “*Bouncers*” at Market Harborough, and a very lively performance of *Barnum* at the Concordia Theatre. Let June know of any suggestions you have for future productions we might all like to see. At the time of writing, it is planned to book for ‘*The Great Gatsby*’ and ‘*Rough Justice*’ in the autumn, so watch for details.

Fit for Life

(Diana Lee on 277 9142)

This group varies in size as all the members have lots of other interests, and grandchildren and family come first, so numbers can drop during school holidays especially. However, everyone seems to enjoy the exercises (even when we think we can’t go on!) and Karen has been an excellent teacher over the past few years. I say HAS BEEN because she has now called ‘time’. But she has found us a new teacher who will start after the May Bank Holiday. Everyone is very keen to continue and ideally we would like a few more of you to join us on Mondays in the Village Hall between 11.30 am and 12.30 pm. One hour per week - £4 a go! Come on – you know you want to! Diana Lee will be your point of contact from now on and will collect your £4. Enjoy!

(Report by Sheila Holmes who has been Group Leader for several years.)

Discussion

(Liz Lockwood-Jones on 240 2296)

We’ve discussed lots more topics including ‘Moving to a New Environment’, ‘The Implications of the Free Movement of People’, ‘How Much Choice Do We Really Need?’, ‘Abortion’ and ‘Volunteering’. Our discussions are always lively, seldom too serious and always topped off with refreshments!

We circulate our meetings around various members’ homes and thoroughly enjoy our Group’s discussions. If you would like to join us just turn up at 10 am on the fourth Friday of the month; see What’s On or website for the venue and topic, or call for more information.

Scrabble

(Shirley Frost on 01455 285217)

This year the group has a new leader, and continues to thrive. Although known as ‘the Scrabble group’, our activities extend to Upwords and Rummikub as well. If you have never tried any of these games, or are a bit ‘rusty’ – this does not matter – just come along to our friendly group who will be happy to give you a bit of assistance and encouragement.

The Settlers of Catan

(Ralph Hunt on 277 8562)

From July 2017 a new Senior Settler's initiative hits the road for U3A members – Catan Parties! In this scenario, YOU host a dinner for 3 or 4 friends and Ralph will entertain them for an hour afterwards with an inclusive game of Settlers of Catan. Daytime or evening, it doesn't matter. Birthdays, anniversaries, whatever! If it's in the village and Ralph is free, then he will be available for you – see contact details below.

Meanwhile the regular group continues to meet between 7 and 9 pm on the first Wednesday of the month at Ralph's home: 129 Station Road. New members would be warmly welcomed.

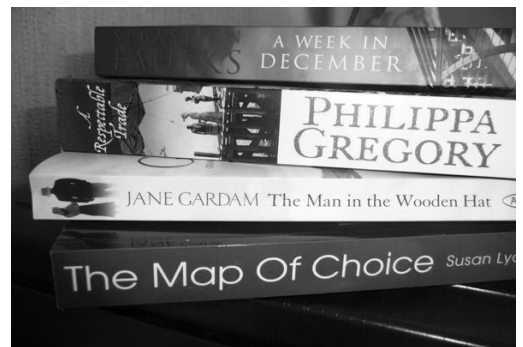
Ralph recounts that he recently spoke to somebody who had just bought RISK – Lord of the Rings version, and he asked if they played Catan, too. They said they'd heard of it, but the game was too expensive. It does cost over £30 for the basic game, and often as much again for the expansions, so that is understandable. Well, the Senior Settlers group gives you the chance to try it without buying it, so what's to lose? Of course, you really have to like playing games in the first place, and not just with the grandchildren!

If your appetite is whetted and you would like to play, please contact Ralph Hunt - tel: 0116 277 8562, mobile: 07071 834394, or email: ralphjohunt@hotmail.co.uk

Literature

(Group leadership rotates)

We meet on the third Wednesday from 2 pm until about 3.30 pm in the residents' lounge at Brook Court. Since the last Newsletter we've read *The Lie; A Man Called Ove* (*don't miss the film to be screened early July at the Phoenix*); *The Miniaturist*, any book by Margaret Atwood, and a month with free choice and another to read any autobiography. So – quite a variety of reading, which stimulates very interesting discussions. Outlines of our discussions can be read on the Literature pages on the website.



The beauty of this group is that one ends up reading books that might not have been picked up if left to oneself! It's not a 'heavy' or serious book club, so why not come along and see if you would like to join us. If you like reading, this could be for you!

Art

(Maureen Thacker on 278 1877)

This group meets each Thursday at 2 – 4 pm in the Methodist Chapel. We do not have any instruction, but work in a variety of media and help each other. In the summer we look forward to a visit to Patchings.

Travel

(Jill Clayton on 277 7154)

Following the very successful planning/social evening in October, outings this year have included visits to Birmingham and the Morgan Car Factory (see article earlier in the Newsletter), which attracted many more of the men than usual! We also enjoyed visits to Worcester and Blenheim Palace. Forthcoming visits will be to Cambridge, Dudmaston and then a Gin Distillery. We are also combining with the Garden Appreciation and Literature groups with a trip to the lovely University town of Cambridge. There will be opportunities to visit the Botanical Gardens and/or the Pepys Library – or just explore! The short holiday to the North West was very successful and included two NT properties, a trip on the Manchester Ship Canal, and time in Southport and Liverpool. Thanks to all those who helped to organise the outings.

SWANS

(Liz Lockwood-Jones on 247 2296)

In case you are wondering – SWANS stands for ‘Short Walks And No Stiles’ and is ideally suited to those members who like a sociable stroll but cannot cope with the demands of the main walking group’s outings. We walk in local parks, in woodlands and gardens, along canal sides and sometimes in the city – according to the likely weather and conditions underfoot at different times of the year. We walk for about an hour, and end up with a cup of tea or coffee (and even a cake if you like) and plenty of time to chat. If you like walking but don’t much enjoy muddy fields, stiles, hills and rough ground, why not give us a try? We walk on the first and third Tuesdays of the month, commencing at 10.30 am from the designated starting point which is reached either in shared cars or public transport. See the website, What’s On, or call for information.



NOTES ON MEMBERSHIP AND GIFT AID

Associate Membership is **ONLY** available to individuals who have proof of **FULL** membership of another U3A. Current Associate subscription is £7.

Please remember that when an individual has kindly ‘gift aided’ their subscription, they **MUST** be paying income tax to HRMC. Tax rules and especially thresholds change, and if anyone finds that they are no longer paying income tax it is **THEIR RESPONSIBILITY** to inform David Wild (Membership Secretary) on 0116 277 5881 so that their name can be removed from our Gift Aid claims. This is really important and we ask for your help in ensuring that we remain ‘legal’! Please do continue to ‘gift aid’, though, as long as you are eligible. Thank you for your co-operation.

KEEPING EVERYBODY INFORMED!

Our next Newsletter will be published in December 2017, and news from the Groups will be much appreciated, or short articles about holidays or trips, etc.

Copy deadline is Friday, 1 December, please.

In the meantime, our monthly printed "What's On" and the website will keep you all up-to-date with what is happening. Group Leaders can assist by letting me know of any events, visits, or changes to routine meeting patterns at least 10 days before our monthly meeting (on the second Tuesday of the month), to ensure inclusion in the next issue. Many thanks to all contributors this year!

*Contact me by email at: jhawkins45@talktalk.net or
call on 0116 277 6330*

If you have changed your address, or phone number,
It is **REALLY IMPORTANT** that you let David Wild (our Membership Secretary) know (on 277 5881) so that we have your current details on file in case we need to contact you.

THIS IS ESSENTIAL FOR TRIPS OR HOLIDAYS!

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

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"

A NOTE ON INSURANCE

When participating in a U3A Group holiday you are responsible for taking out your own holiday/travel insurance. Your Organiser may ask you for details of your policy number so that this is available in the unlikely event of an emergency.

MONTHLY MEETING DETAILS

Always held on the **SECOND Tuesday** of the month
at Countesthorpe Village Hall

Doors open 1.30 pm; speaker at 2.00 pm followed by refreshments

Date	Title of Talk	Speaker
11 July	Kicks & Frills: The Story of the French Can-Can	David Price
8 Aug	A Garden Heritage	Steve Lovell
12 Sept	The Story of Laura Ashley	Jo Golby
10 Oct	Trust Me, I'm Your Plague Doctor	David Bell
14 Nov	Big Cat Conservation and Photography	Barbara Meyer
12 Dec	A Musical History Show	Steve Allen

YOUR U3A COMMITTEE 2017-8

Chairman:	Peter Bradbury	01455 274604
Deputy Chair:	Sherry Burditt	277 1212
Secretary:	Christine Claricoates	277 5251
Treasurer:	Graham Cox	284 8949
Membership Secretary	David Wild	277 5881
Information & Publicity:	June Hawkins	277 6330
Speaker Secretary:	Helen Bull	223 8239
Groups Co-ordinator:	Ursula Wild	277 5881
Technical Officer:	Barry Hillyard	277 4187
Committee member:	Beryl Lishman	277 0405
Committee member:	Sheila Baldwin	319 2801
Committee member:	Eunice Lucas	247 8664

Full details of all our groups, events, trips and holidays can be found on the monthly 'What's On' bulletin, provided at the monthly meetings with copies in the Rainbow Shop and Library. Or, why not visit our website for listings of all that is happening, and full details of our various groups.

www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk