

# Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter



Mar/Apr 2011

Issue 2011/2

## Chairperson's Letter

(Tel: 277 5881)

Dear Friends

We are approaching the AGM which is on 10<sup>th</sup> May. We are again asking for volunteers to join the Committee. It sounds much more serious than it really is, you know, and if you join us this year you will probably only be asked to assume a role of shadowing a member of the committee, with a view to taking a more active part next year. You will therefore have time to see what is involved in serving on the Committee. It really only requires attendance at a meeting once per month, at Brook Court on a Friday morning from 10:00 am until 12:00 noon, and a willingness to help out where you can.

We have decided to hold a Coffee Morning for new members and for any members who feel that they don't know many people in the U3A. It is sometimes difficult to introduce yourself in the large group, so we hope it will give an opportunity for members to meet each other and possibly begin new friendships. It will be held on 18<sup>th</sup> March 10:30 am to 11:30 am in the Village Hall lounge, so do come along and meet us.

This year we are renewing memberships in March as well as April. A number of committee members are unable to attend April's meeting and this will spread the load for all concerned. We will have three tables at the front of the hall after the meeting to collect £12 subscriptions. Please help us by going to the right table – designated in alphabetic groups by your surname. It worked well last year and was done quite quickly while everyone was having coffee.

Easter is now approaching and many of us are beginning to think about holidays again. It is fun being retired, isn't it!

Best wishes

*Ursula Wild  
(Chairperson)*

Countesthorpe  
**U 3 A**  
THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## DIARY DATES: Mar/Apr 2011

Date	Group	Activity	Venue/time
8 Mar	Monthly Meeting	They Told Me I Was Adopted by Carole Smith	Village Hall from 1.30 pm (speaker 2.15 pm)
14 Mar	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
15 Mar	SWANS	Gen Parva (shortened version)	Glenhills Library - 10.30 am
16 Mar	Literature	Any book: Carlos Ruiz Zafon	2.00 pm Brook Court
18 Mar		<b>New members' Coffee Morning</b> (see Ursula's letter for details)	10.30 – 11.30 in Small Lounge at Village Hall
18 Mar	CHEWS	Controlled Healthy Eating with Support	Mary's – from 9.15 am
21 Mar	Creative Writing	Theme: Any proverb	2.00 pm Brook Court
25 Mar	Discussion	Topic 'The Value of Life'	Shirley Wilding's -10.00 am
28 Mar	Archaeology	Kirby Hall, Northants	Dep Village Hall: noon
28 Mar	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
29 Mar	SWANS	Planning Meeting	Shirley Wilding's -10.00 am
31 Mar	Walking	Approx 5 miles from the Badger's Sett, Cropston	Dep. Village Hall 9.30 am Barbara Oldham (247 8612)
1 Apr	CHEWS	Controlled Healthy Eating with Support	Dorothy's – from 9.15 am
11 Apr	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
12 Apr	Monthly Meeting	The National Forest <i>Penny Wilkinson</i>	Village Hall from 1.30 pm (speaker 2.15 pm)
20 Apr	Literature	The Man in the Wooden Hat by Jane Gardam	2.00 pm Brook Court
22 Apr	Discussion	Do we have too much choice?	June Hawkins' -10.00 am

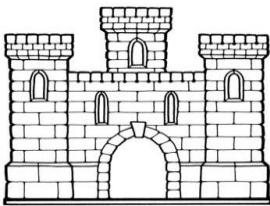


The Scrabble Group would like to thank the U3A Committee for financing the new racks for our Rummikub game. They are so much more stable than the plastic ones and it is a pleasure to use them. We have had some new members and continue to meet on the first Wednesday of each month. Do come and see if you would enjoy any of our games. We are of mixed abilities and play for fun.

*For details ring Dorothy on 0116 277 5280*

# ARCHAEOLOGY

**MONDAY, 28<sup>TH</sup> MARCH 2011**



**Kirby Hall, Northants:** (*List now closed*) Leave Village Hall at 12 noon and meet at Kirby Hall Car Park at 1 pm, using own cars. Suggested donation to driver is £3. Not suitable for very disabled persons, as the walk to the hall is rough. Hall is open until 4 pm. Only limited refreshments are available at the Hall, and there are few opportunities close by, so you might want to take your own. For more information you may like to visit the website:- <http://www.english-heritage.org.uk/dayout/properties/kirby-hall/>

*Shirley Taylor (Tel: 277 3340)*



## **IMPORTANT NOTE ABOUT PARKING FOR THEATRE TRIPS**

We are usually fortunate enough to be allowed to park in the rear car park at the Countesthorpe Village Hall, but we need to use spaces as near the BACK of the car park as possible, please, to avoid issues arising with other users who have hired the hall on the same night. Thank you for your co-operation.

## **RENEWAL OF ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS**

The subscription for 2011/12 will revert to £12, and can be paid at our March and April general meetings. We will operate the same routine as before:- that is three tables each dealing with surnames in a section of the alphabet as indicated on the notices on those tables.

Taxpayers - please consider gift-aiding your subscription if you have not already done so! Just speak to whoever takes your subscription.

Prompt payment helps our cash flow, and ensures your insurance cover when participating in our various activities. Thank you!

## FLOWER ARRANGING GROUP

We are a small but friendly group which meets once a month in the Countesthorpe Village Hall's small lounge on the second Wednesday of each month, from 2.00 – 4.00 pm. Everyone is welcome. If you would like to come and see what we do, or to join us, our dates for 2011 are:



12 Jan	9 Feb	9 Mar	13 April
11 May	8 June	13 July	10 Aug
14 Sept	12 Oct	9 Nov	14 Dec

For any further information, please ring Jane Gray on 0116 284 9547. We would love to hear from you!

## THE REEL HISTORY OF BRITAIN COMES TO COUNTESTHORPE!

The well-known broadcaster Melvyn Bragg is to present a brand new series for BBC Two Daytime retelling the fascinating stories about how life in Britain used to be, through the film collections of the British Film Institute and regional film archives. The Reel History of Britain will trace the descendants of those featured in the films, as they come face-to-face with their ancestors to discover how they lived their lives. Along the way viewers will see how ordinary British people worked, loved and lived in the 20th century, as seen through social documentaries, tourist information films, newsreels, and government propaganda films.

They will be filming in Countesthorpe on 8th May and anyone who thinks they can help can call the production team on 0161 2443289 or e-mail [reelhistory@bbc.co.uk](mailto:reelhistory@bbc.co.uk).

**CONTRIBUTIONS** are always needed for the Newsletter. I really do rely on your help in providing information about your group's activities or any future plans. Just email or phone, or put a note through my door; I am happy to edit for you. The latest copy date for the next issue is Tuesday, 3 May.

*Editor: June Hawkins (tel) 277 6330, (email) [jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net) or my address is: 30 Marston Crescent, Countesthorpe, LE8 5PY.*

## FOLK DANCING

We dance on two Mondays a month between 2 and 3.30 pm – just bring comfortable shoes and a sense of humour, please, to our next meetings in the Countesthorpe Village Hall on 14 and 28 March, then 11 April. New members are always welcomed.



Over the next few months as well as our usual mixture of English country dances from the last four centuries we will try the even older tradition of Maypole Dancing and its more practical, but less dramatic, relation: Ribbon Dancing

*Details from Patsy Paterson on 277 6259*

## ETHNIC DINING



Inaugural meeting of the Ethnic Dining Group waits for opening time!

Seventeen members enjoyed a very successful visit to sample Lebanese cuisine at the Cedars Restaurant in Churchgate. Thanks to Liz Merrall!

February's meal, organised by Jill Clayton, was to our local Dine India restaurant. More than 20 people enjoyed a great evening of good food and convivial company.

16 March sees us in Market Harborough at lunchtime for a Mexican meal at Rio Brava, organised by Shirley and Roger Wilding. So (if you are not in the core group) add your name to the list in the small lounge, or call Barry on 277 4187

## **ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING**

**Tuesday, 10 May 2011**

This year will be an AGM with a difference! Once the formalities have been concluded, members will be able to enjoy a taste of 'home grown' entertainment provided by some of our own groups, followed by the launch and demonstration of the new Countesthorpe U3A website.

## **NEW COUNTESTHORPE U3A WEBSITE**

We have been working with a local web developer to provide a website that the committee believes will be very successful in increasing access to information about our U3A and all that is on offer.

As well as basic information about our U3A, there will be a very comprehensive 'What's On' section, pages for each group, ways to make contact, and access to lots of pictures including many from past events.

An archive to include recollections from the early days of our U3A, and past Newsletters will also be continuously developed. If any member has anything they would like to contribute to the archive, please contact June by email on [jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net), or telephone 277 6330.

But be assured that the printed bi-monthly Newsletter and the monthly update 'What's On' (*Marketplace*) will continue just as usual, though!



During a visit to my doctor, I asked him, "How do you determine whether or not an older person should be put in an old persons' home?"

"Well," he said, "we fill up a bathtub, then we offer a teaspoon, a teacup and a bucket to the person to empty the bathtub."

"Oh, I understand," I said. "A normal person would use the bucket because it is bigger than the spoon or the teacup."

"No," he said. "A normal person would pull the plug. Do you want a bed near the window?"

## C.A.R.E. Walking Group

2011 got off to a good start with the January walk, led by Allan and Rosemary Jordan. Twenty-four members and 'Harry' the dog enjoyed the walk from the Holly Bush at Ashby Parva. The route took us to Ullesthorpe via the dismantled railway, now riddled with badger sets, and back across the fields.



The February walk, led by Allen and Irene Donkin, started from the Wharf Inn at Welford and mainly followed the route of the 'Mary Gilbert Walk'. Twenty-one members enjoyed what turned out to be a beautiful day.

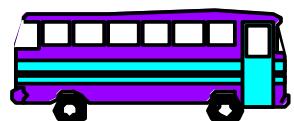
*NOTE: Mary Gilbert was a local character; a boat woman who had a boat called Gwen Mary which she used to transport coal, coke and other provisions around the district from her wharf side delivery business. She also ran the George Inn, previously owned by her father William. The Inn is now the Wharf Inn and is still in the same building.*



The March walk on Thursday, 31<sup>st</sup> will be approximately 5 miles from the Badger's Sett at Cropston, leaving Countesthorpe Village Hall/Library at 9.30 am. Contacts for this walk are: Barbara Oldham (0116 247 8612) and Peggy Grainger (0116 277 6090). Optional pub lunch.

## TRAVEL

### Thursday, 19 May:



Day trip to **Bury St Edmunds** - a nice little town with an old quarter and a ruined abbey. The old abbey church became the parish church and is now the cathedral - the tower only being completed for the millennium. Cost £20 including guided tour. Departing from Village Hall at 8 am, returning by 8 pm. Names and £20 to Barry Hillyard by 8 March.

*For further details, call 277 4187*

# THEATRE PROGRAMME



Date	Play	Cost	Venue	Leaving Village Hall	Pay by
Thurs 10 Mar	Curtain Up	£16	Concordia, Hinckley	6.35 pm	8 Feb
Wed 27 Apr	Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell	£27	Milton Keynes (2.30 pm)	12.45 pm	8 Mar
Tues 17 May	My Mother Said I Never Should	£16	Market Harborough	6.45 pm	12 Apr
Mon 20 June	Pride and Prejudice	£23	Tolethorpe (+ £20 buffet)	4.45 pm	12 Apr
Thurs 22 Sept	Warhorse	£49	London	TBA	8 Mar
Wed 19 Oct	South Pacific	£37	Milton Keynes (2.30 pm)	12.45 pm	10 May
Thurs 8 Dec	42 <sup>nd</sup> Street	£28	Curve	6.15 pm (TBC)	8 Mar

**JEFFREY BERNARD IS UNWELL:** Winner of the Evening Standard's Best Comedy Award 1990, the play finds the journalist trapped overnight in his favourite Soho pub. A host of ex wives, friends and enemies join him in retracing scenes from a life packed with hysterical and absurd incident. BOOKINGS NOW CLOSED

**MY MOTHER SAID I NEVER SHOULD:** One of the great success stories of modern British theatre, by Charlotte Keatley, it is a warm, funny, engrossing look at the lives and relationships of four generations of women set against the huge social changes of the 20th century. A FEW PLACES REMAIN

**PRIDE AND PREJUDICE:** Jane Austen's witty book, skillfully adapted for the stage by Simon Reade, pokes fun at the affectations and etiquette of Regency provincial life. Treat yourself to dinner, or take a picnic. BOOKINGS NOW CLOSED

**WAR HORSE:** Audience review: '*I went to see War Horse and it was amazing. The story is so moving. The cast were awesome. The puppets were brilliant too, the way they did everything like real horses!*' BOOKINGS NOW CLOSED

**SOUTH PACIFIC:** Winner of 8 Tony Awards, this lavish production reinvents the classic Rodgers and Hammerstein show. A FEW PLACES REMAIN

**42<sup>nd</sup> STREET:** the inspiring story of small-town girl Peggy Sawyer and her meteoric rise from chorus line hoofer to Broadway star. BOOKINGS NOW CLOSED