

# Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter



Apr-May 2012

Issue 2012/2

## Chairperson's Letter

(Tel: 277 5881)

Dear Friends

This is my last newsletter as your chairman. I want to thank all those who have contributed to organising and running the U3A over the years of my chairmanship. Thanks to the group leaders and especially to the members of the committee for their willing and enthusiastic help in making things so much easier than they might have been! I have been most grateful for their support and would especially like to thank those who are about to hand over their roles to new committee members. It is important to remember that, in the U3A, everyone's opinion is of equal value and so any suggestions or ideas to improve the way we do things will be very welcome.

Many new activity groups have started over my time in office and it is rewarding to reflect that our U3A continues to grow in enthusiasm and ideas. This is reflected in the fact that our numbers are continually rising. A happy problem! We need new, younger members to keep new ideas flowing as well as those who lead their established groups with the same youthful zest and exuberance.

During the year we have had many interesting and stimulating, high-quality speakers to entertain us each month. We have had the choice of really exciting holidays and also outings spread across several different groups. There have been superb quality theatre trips. Meals have been organised for a variety of groups and walks of different lengths and difficulty and many brain stimulating activities have been organised besides. We owe so much to so many people.

My sincere thanks and admiration go to all those involved in work over the past two years and I know that the welcoming and friendly atmosphere will continue into the future membership of our U3A.

From

*Ursula Wild*  
*Chairperson*

Countesthorpe



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## DIARY DATES: Apr-May 2012

Date	Group	Activity	Venue/time
11 Apr	Social Occasions	Long Alley Skittles + supper	7 pm Conservative Club
13 Apr	Archaeology	Visit to Stoke Bruerne	9.30 am from Village Hall
15 Apr	Solo Lunch	Kilworth Springs Golf Club	Noon for 12.30 pm
16 Apr	Creative Writing	No set theme this month	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
17 Apr	SWANS	Blaby	10.30 am Oakfield Park
18 Apr	Literature	Call the Midwife/Shadows of the Workhouse <i>(by J Worth)</i>	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
18 Apr	Singing for Fun		6.30 pm Methodist Room
19 Apr	Photography	Mosaic project	6.30 pm Methodist Room
20 Apr	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Dorothy's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
23 Apr	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
24 Apr	Play Reading		2 – 4 pm Joan's home
25 Apr	Social Occasions	Quiz (in Concert Room)	7 pm Conservative Club
26 Apr	Walking	Chandler's Arms, Shearsby	9.30 am from Village Hall
27 Apr	Discussion	"Are the Olympics good for the UK?"	Jackie's home; 10 am - noon
1 May	SWANS	Swithland Woods	10.30 am TBA
8 May	Monthly Meeting	AGM + entertainment after	Village Hall from 1.30 pm ('speakers' 2.15 pm)
14 May	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
15 May	SWANS	Burbage Common & Woods	10.30 am Smith Lane CP
16 May	Literature	Anything by Charles Dickens	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
18 May	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Margaret's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
24 May	Archaeology	Chedworth Roman Villa	Leave Hall at 9.30 am
25 May	Discussion	"When, and if, should ransoms be paid?"	Jill's home; 10 am - noon

## **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 you know 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.

## **MEMBERSHIP RENEWAL 2012/3**

Please note that membership renewal is due by 1 May 2012. Payments can be made only AFTER the speaker at the April general meeting. We will operate the usual system with separate tables for groups of surnames in alphabetical order.

Membership cost this year will be £13, with associate membership at £6.

Please help us to deal with everyone as efficiently as possible by not asking to renew at other times, such as *before* the speaker!

## **GIFT AID**

Have you signed a Gift Aid form for your U3A subscription? If not would you consider doing so? As a registered charity we can reclaim 25p for each £1 you pay. For our U3A to qualify for gift aid on your annual subscription you need to be a taxpayer and confirm your wish that the charity benefits from the Gift Aid Scheme. Sue Wyllie has the necessary forms for completion and you can contact her on 284 9959 or at the monthly meeting.

I know that you believe you understand what you think I said, but, I am not sure you realise that what you heard is not what I meant!



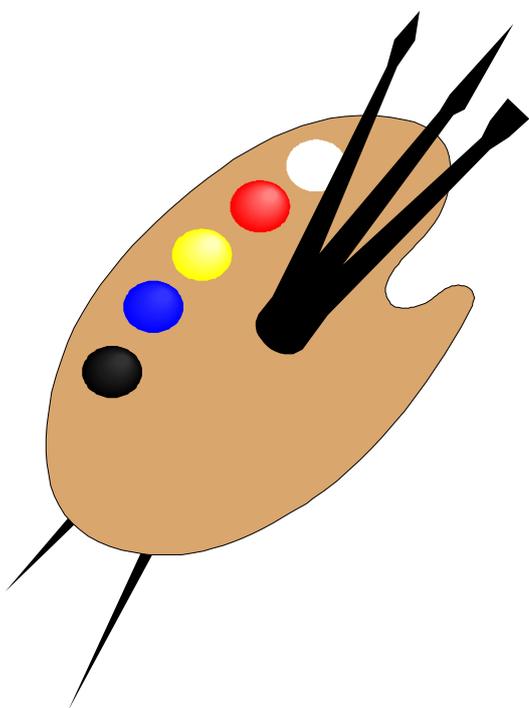
*(This is on a poster that I put up in our home office for my husband. Need I say more?)*

*Sent in by Patricia Brown*

## ART GROUP – SUMMER ACTIVITIES

**Thurs, 14 June:** Patchings Art Festival. Leave Village Hall at 8.30 am, returning approximately 6 pm. £14.00

**Tues, 10 July:** Annual visit to Misterton Hall, Lutterworth. Make your own way, and bring your own food (tea/coffee provided), arriving from 10.30 am and leave when you wish. Donations to Age UK (the Hall's owner's choice of charity). All groups (eg photographers, walkers may be especially interested) are welcome to join us.



**Thurs, 9 Aug:** Bradgate Park. Mini-bus leaves Village Hall at 9.30 am, and returning approximately 4.30 pm. £4.00

**Thurs, 13 Sept:** Wistow Garden Centre – make your own way at a time to suit yourself

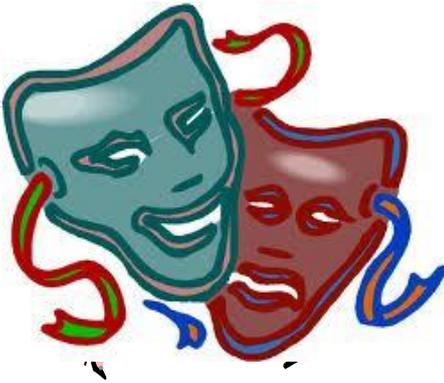
On all other Thursdays, from 3 May, we meet in Audrey's lovely garden at 13 Linden Avenue. Many thanks to Audrey!

On 4 October we return to our winter quarters at the Methodist School Room.

**HAPPY PAINTING**, and do come along and join us! New members are always welcome and we're not experts!

*Details from Margaret Woolley on 277 3510 (evs preferred)*

## FOLK DANCING



Our group will reflect the time of year when we bring the Maypole to one of our next few sessions, and we dancers will realise that it isn't entirely a 'child's play' as some of the modern dances can get rather complicated, but with a dramatic pattern of the ribbons as a reward for the intricate dancing!

Everyone is welcome to come and join in, usually on the second and fourth Mondays of every month between 2.00 and 3.30 pm in the Village Hall. Next dates are 23 April, 14 and 28 May. Just bring your sense of humour and wear comfy shoes!

*Details from Patsy Paterson on 277 6259*

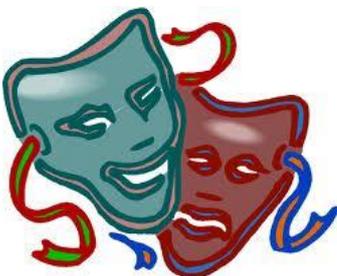
## [www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk](http://www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk)

Our official website gives the basic information about our U3A, plus a very comprehensive 'What's On' section, pages for each Activity Group (some of which change regularly to include reports on recent events, or other items), ways to make contact with us, and access to lots of pictures including many from outings and holidays. See also the STOP PRESS on the homepage for up-to-the minute news. You can also download the current Newsletter and a printed version of What's On in case you couldn't get to the monthly meeting.

News/changes to: email: [jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net) or tel: 277 6330, or to 30 Marston Crescent, Countesthorpe.

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

## PLAY READING



Don't forget that this recently-established group meets on the fourth Tuesday of each month from 2-4 pm, at different homes. You're most welcome to join us if you have an interest in this activity.

*For details, contact Joan Burn on 277 5369*

## Latest copy dates for your contributions!

- Wed, 2 May for the May What's On and website
- Wed, 6 June for the June What's On, next Newsletter and website
- Wed, 4 July for July issue of What's On and website

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

## C.A.R.E WALKING GROUP

The March walk from Forest Hill Golf Club at Botcheston, was led by Pete Royle and attracted twenty-six walkers. This included one new member. The weather was quite unbelievable for the time of year, and early into the walk had us all casting off layers of clothing.



A good part of the walk focussed on Borough Wood which is part of the National Forest, and administered by the Woodland Trust. The wood is a complex of permissive pathways giving access to open hay meadows and established and emerging woodlands.

The latter part of the walk was from the edge of Ratby, gently climbing back through

Woodlands Farm and onto the track skirting the woods and returning via the golf course to the clubhouse for lunch.

The 18 hole (par 73) course was established in 1991 and extended in 2006.

The group walks on the last Thursday of each month, usually leaving the Village Hall at 9.30 am. New walkers are always welcome. See website or 'What's On' or contact Allen Donkin on 277 3665 or Malcolm Skerritt on 277 2599 for details.

*Report and picture sent in by Allen Donkin*

## ARCHAEOLOGY GROUP VISIT TO CHEDWORTH ROMAN VILLA

- Thursday, 24 May 2012, leaving Village Hall at 9.30 am by coach; returning to Countesthorpe by approximately 5.00/5.30 pm
- Light refreshments available on site or take a picnic – plenty of seating
- Audio guide included
- Coach cost: £14 (NT members *with NT card*) or £22 for non-NT members
- Cheques preferred, payable to 'Countesthorpe U3A', please, by 8 May

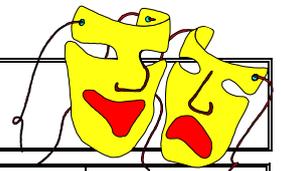


Unveiled this year, the extraordinary relics of one of the country's largest Roman villas reopen following a major project to bring to life the golden age of Roman Britain. New buildings provide all-weather access to distinctive mosaics. Explore Roman design features in this tranquil setting, and discover artefacts from past excavations and how the Victorians shaped the site.

New café and gift shop, audio tour, museum.

Book in small lounge, or contact June no later than 15 May  
(Tel: 277 6330 or Email: [jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net))

# THEATRE PROGRAMME



Tues 24 Apr	Joseph	£18	Curve	6.15 pm	14 Feb
Thurs 17 May	Top Hat	£49	Aldwych, London	9.30 am	20 Dec
Tues 3 July	Lord Arthur Savile's Crime	£16	Market Harborough	6.45 pm	8 May
Wed 26 Sept	The Mousetrap	£30	Milton Keynes	12.30 pm	10 July
TBA (Nov)	<i>Phantom of the Opera</i>	£50	<i>Milton Keynes</i>	<i>12.30 pm</i>	
Tues 11 Dec	Hello, Dolly!	£18	Curve	6.30 pm	14 Aug

**JOSEPH:** The top favourite musical comes to Curve. Coach both ways.

**TOP HAT:** Fabulous musical based on Irving Berlin's music, starring Tom Chambers (*2009 winner of Strictly Come Dancing*). Time for lunch in London before the show.

**LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME:** Based on the story by Oscar Wilde. Lord Arthur is told by a fortune teller that he will commit a murder. Being a gentleman, he resolves to do the deed before his marriage to Sybil. But if it can go wrong, then it will! (MHDS)

**THE MOUSETRAP.** The Jubilee tour of this long-running Agatha Christie favourite. Good circle seats at Milton Keynes and convenient coach travel as usual.

**HELLO, DOLLY!** Packed with show-stopping tunes, this bold musical extravaganza will start your Christmas season with a bang!

**PHANTOM OF THE OPERA:** *I've applied for tickets in Nov – more later!*  
June Hawkins – tel: 277 6330 or email: [jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net)

**SORRY, DUE TO ZUMBA CLASSES THERE IS NO PARKING AT VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY EVENINGS – AFFECTING 'JOSEPH', 'LORD ARTHUR SAVILE'S CRIME' AND 'HELLO, DOLLY!'**  
**COACH WILL PICK UP AT VILLAGE HALL AND SQUARE – TRY PARKING IN CO-OP OR CENTRAL ST CAR PARK (FREE AFTER 6 PM)**