

# Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter



Feb - Mar 2013

Issue 2013/1

## Chairperson's Letter

(Tel: 277 4187)

Dear Friends

This seems to be a season of coughs'n'colds, streaming noses and painful throats. I hope you have recovered from whatever seasonal ailments you may have suffered from.

However, the days are noticeably lengthening and the weather seems more encouraging and pleasant. There is new life abounding – snowdrops, crocuses etc. We have several good activities going ahead in the various groups to cheer us up – visits, meals out, and new things to learn.

Historically, 12<sup>th</sup> February had some momentous events of local interest:

**1554** Lady Jane Grey was beheaded – imagine what Leicestershire would be like if she had reigned for some time as Queen.

**1709** Alexander Selkirk was taken off Juan Fernandez Island after more than four years of living there alone - the inspiration for 'Robinson Crusoe'.

**1924** Rhapsody in Blue was premiered, and in

**1809** Charles Darwin was born.

Remember, any day in which you learn something new is not wasted; that could almost be a motto for the U3A!

From

*Barry Hillyard*  
*Chairperson*

Countesthorpe



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

## DIARY DATES: Feb - Mar 2013

Date	Group	Activity	Venue/time
14 Feb	History	Talk on Iron Age Leicestershire by Peter Liddle	10 am – noon <b>OPEN to ALL MEMBERS</b> Methodist Room £3
15 Feb	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Lesley's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
17 Feb	Solo Lunch	Cosby Golf Club	Noon for 12.30 pm
18 Feb	Creative Writing	Theme: Communication	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
19 Feb	SWANS	Foston Church to Peatling	10.30 am at Foston Church
20 Feb	Literature	An Instance of the Fingerpost	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
22 Feb	Discussion	Legacy of the Olympics	10 – noon at Ruth's home
25 Feb	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
28 Feb	Walking CARE	Approx 5 miles from Red Lion, Welham + optional pub lunch	9.15 am from Village Hall
5 Mar	SWANS	University Botanic Gardens	10.30 am at main Glebe Road entrance
5 Mar	History	Third visit to Welford Rd Cemetery. Own transport. £3	9.15 am Village Hall
11 Mar	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
12 Mar	Monthly Meeting	The Story of the Ukelele <i>By Gabriela</i>	Doors open 1.30 pm Speaker from 2.00/2.15 pm
14 Mar	History	Talk on Roman Leicestershire by Peter Liddle	10 am – noon <b>OPEN to ALL MEMBERS</b> Methodist Room £3
15 Mar	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Ruth's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
18 Mar	Beginners' Photography	1st week of new 4-wk course	6.30 pm at 35 Station Rd
19 Mar	SWANS	East Carlton Park	10.30 am in car park
20 Mar	Literature	The Thread by Victoria Hislop	2 - 4 pm at Brook Court
25 Mar	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
25 Mar	Beginners' Photography	2 <sup>nd</sup> week of new 4-wk course	6.30 pm at 35 Station Rd
26 Mar	SWANS	Planning Meeting	10 am at Glebe Gardens

## **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.



## **FOLK DANCING**

We were very pleased to have 24 at our Folk Dancing Group in January - that means there was a large choice of dances without asking anyone to sit out - and slightly later in the year that would be an ideal number for our Maypole!

Sessions in February and March will be on 11th and 25th and everyone is welcome - please remember comfortable shoes and a sense of humour both help, and do tell me when things aren't clear!

*Details from Patsy Paterson on 277 6259*

## **C.H.E.W.S. News!**

We are a happy group of people and we encourage each other to eat healthily. We measure success in weight loss or simply no weight gain.

Members find that our monthly meetings, where we exchange ideas, and the weekly weigh-ins, help us to achieve goals.

You would be most welcome to come and join us. Details in the 'What's On', on the website or ring Ruth on 277 1533

**Copy date for next Newsletter is 3 April**

**Contributions to [jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net) or call 277 6330**

## PHOTOGRAPHY FOR BEGINNERS

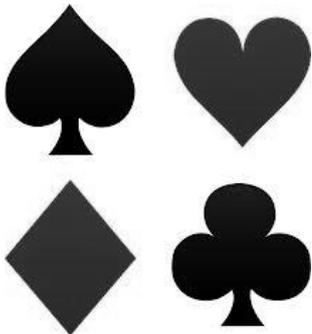
A new four-week course in Photography for Beginners will commence on Monday, 18 March and continue on 25 March, 15 and 22 April. The group will meet at Barry Hillyard's home – 35 Station Road.

All you need is a camera and a desire to use it.

To join, please see Barry during Tuesday's meeting, call 277 4187, or email him at: [bhillyard@metronet.co.uk](mailto:bhillyard@metronet.co.uk)



### BRIDGE GROUP



The Bridge group is still going strong with an average attendance over the last year of just over 17. There is a very small turnover each year (mainly due to ill health, sadly). We meet at the Methodist Church Hall every week as do several other groups, both U3A and non U3A. New members are always very welcome!

This Christmas we took part for the fourth successive year in decorating a Christmas tree at the Methodist Church. The Church provides a tree and a string of 20 lights and invites each user group to decorate it to a set theme – to be interpreted as each group wishes. The theme this year was 'Christmas Colours and Songs'.

We chose a line from Good King Wenceslas - 'When the snow lay round about'. Essentially the tree was decorated in white with a paper sculpture King looking out at a snow scene. We were one of about a dozen trees on display for the Christmas season lasting about two or three weeks.

*Details of Bridge Group from Neil Barker on 277 5341 or website*

### 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.



## THEATRE TRIP

Ian and I joined the theatre trip to Milton Keynes as we especially wanted to see Matthew Bourne's third interpretation of a Tchaikovsky ballet – the Sleeping Beauty - and we were very pleased in all ways.

Just wandering up to the Village Hall and waiting 'til the bus comes is surely much easier than getting oneself to the theatre and finding a parking space, and then our arrival timing was about right, and the seats comfortable and handy. We all loved the production - and I didn't realise until reading the programme afterwards quite how recently the run had begun. Coming out to find the nearest coach to the door was 'our' coach added to the 'being looked after' feeling and made the journey home very relaxing.

Thank you, June, for all your organising - it is much appreciated!

*Patsy Paterson*

## IT'S NOT ALL MUD!

The January walk, led by Irene and Allen Donkin, was from 'The Countryman' at Sharnford. Eleven walkers set off on the Leicestershire Round on what turned out to be a bright, but breezy morning. Early into the walk we had our one and only squally shower. The going underfoot was nowhere near as bad as had been expected, given the atrocious weather that we had experienced this month.

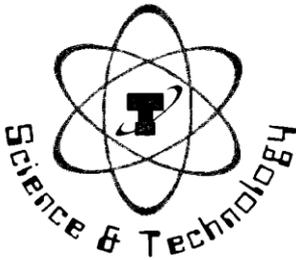


We left the Round at Aston Flamville, and had our short break near Field's Farm before continuing into Sapcote. The oldest surviving building in the village is the 12th century All Saints' Church. We left the village via Donkey Lane following a bridle path back to Sharnford. This village is astride the river Soar. In November part of the village was flooded including 'The Countryman'. We were very fortunate that today, for the first time since the flooding, they were able to use the kitchen and provided us with an excellent lunch.

*Walking (CARE) details from Malcolm on 277 2599 or Allen on 277 3665*

## SCIENCE and TECHNOLOGY

The Science Group continues to meet at the Axe and Square (12.30 to 2.00 pm) on the second Monday of every month. We usually number around a dozen members who, over the last year, have had talks on, and/or discursive discussion about, a wide range of scientific and technological subjects and their political and social consequences. These subjects have included: alcohol; origami; nuclear physics; closed-loop control systems; evolution; eugenics; analogue computers; the Windscale nuclear disaster of 1957; and nuclear fuel storage and reprocessing.



It is not necessary to be a scientist or technologist (I'm neither) to contribute to, or benefit from, these meetings to which, of course all U3A members are welcome.

*Details from Mike Thompson on 277 0584*

### Easter Week cancellations

Please note that during Easter Week, there will be no Kurling or Hand-bell Ringing on Wednesday, 3 April, and no Art on Thursday, 4 April.

It may be wise to check for other possible cancellations with your Group Leader(s)!

### IMAGININGS!

This year in March, April or May, on renewal of your U3A membership, each individual member or couple will receive a free copy of the third miscellany of poems, stories and descriptive writings produced by the Creative Writing group.

This is being presented with the compliments of the Committee, and we hope that everyone will enjoy the examples of the group members' work - and perhaps even be inspired to join them 2 – 4 pm on the third Monday of each month at Brook Court.



*Details of Creative Writing group from Mikki Wilde on 277 5509*

# HISTORY GROUP

Last month, forty people enjoyed Peter Liddle's illustrated talk on Prehistoric Leicestershire – spanning many millennia, and starting with intriguing evidence of the long lost Bytham River. We were treated to a fascinating insight into human habitation in our locality from the Ice Ages up to the Bronze Age, with illustrations of a wide range of artefacts and maps underpinning the archaeological findings and conclusions.

A further two talks are planned, each 10 am – noon in the Methodist Chapel. £3 on the door, to include refreshments. Loop system available.

Thurs, 14 Feb: **Iron Age Leicestershire** – the age of hill forts and the beginning of urban life, before the Roman Conquest

Thurs, 14 March: **Roman Leicestershire**, covering the transformation wrought during the 400 years of the county's inclusion in the Empire

Then we have two coach trips planned:

**Nottingham Caves and Tunnels** on Wed, 10 April (dep 9 am) £20

**Wall Roman Baths and Lichfield** on Thurs, 16 May £12 (coach only)

For details of these trips, and to book, please visit the History table in the small lounge, see the website or email June on [jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net)

## VISIT TO LINCOLN - Thursday, 6 June

Departing from the Village Hall at 9 am, the coach will drop us near the Cathedral and pick us up from the bus station – that way you won't have to walk up the hill (unless you have a burning desire for exercise!). The cost will be £12 per person.

A guided tour of the Cathedral is not possible that day due to a schools' music festival. However, it will be open for visitors. Near the Cathedral is the castle (concessions £4). There is a minibus service that runs every half hour round the town (free with your Concessionary Bus Pass) so you won't need to walk down the steep hill. There are many interesting small streets and little shops to explore. Please sign up on the list on the Travel Table in the small lounge or contact Barry on 277 4187, or by email at [bhillyard@metronet.co.uk](mailto:bhillyard@metronet.co.uk)

# THEATRE PROGRAMME



Tues* 19 Mar	The Deep Blue Sea	£16	Market Harborough	Leys 6.40 pm, + VH, Square	12 Feb
Tues* 16 Apr	The Full Monty	£18	Loughborough Town Hall	Leys 6.05 pm, + VH, Square	12 Mar
Thurs 9 May	Billy Elliot	£35	Victoria Palace, London	VH 9.15 am	15 Jan
Wed 12 June	Shakers Re-stirred	£20	Loughborough Town Hall	VH 6.10 pm	9 April
Thurs 31 Oct	War Horse	£60	Birmingham Hippodrome	VH 12 noon	9 April
Tues* 10 Dec	Chicago	£20	Curve, Leicester	Leys 6.10 pm, + VH, Square	11 June

**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, 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.

**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 boy's struggle to make his dream come true. Time for lunch before the show.

**SHAKERS RE-STIRRED:** Every town has its 'Shakers', the oh-so trendy cocktail bar where everyone wants to be seen: from the check-out girls to the chinless wonders, from the yuppies to the local lads.

**WAR HORSE – BACK BY POPULAR DEMAND!** Don't miss this opportunity to see this amazing and heart-warming production! How can puppets be so life-like?

**CHICAGO –** Get your Christmas season off to a great start with 'All That Jazz' in this award-winning show – bargain tickets and transport there and back as well.

*June Hawkins – tel: 277 6330 or email: [jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net)*

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

**PLEASE STICK TO YOUR STATED CHOICE OF PICK-UP POINT, TO AVOID THE COACH WAITING UNNECESSARILY!**