

Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter



Oct-Nov 2013

Issue 2013/5

Chairperson's Letter

(Tel: 277 4187)

Dear Friends

This month I have been thinking of change – particularly in the village.

When I first came the village hall was an old white cement-coated building at right angles to this one. Our wedding reception was in there with the photographs taken outside – not the most elegant of locations compared to what is expected these days. It, too, included the library – one small room at one end. We lived with Pat's parents for a few months until our new house – in Willow Drive – was ready. At the time, Willow Drive came to a dead end with a few houses further on, then with fields going into open country beyond that.

Some of you might remember the fuss, when Shetland Way was being built, over the public footpath that went in one end of one of the houses (3 feet to the side of the back door opening and out of the front. I think everyone in the village took the opportunity to walk through it! I think the building of Brook Court was a big improvement on Brook Street which was extremely run down.

When we bemoan the new housing in the village we should remember that where many of us live was tutted about by previous generations – I wouldn't be surprised to hear that there were mutterings about the building of my house "West Villa" in Station Road in 1874.

From

Barry Hillyard
Chairperson

Countesthorpe



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

DIARY DATES: Oct-Nov 2013

Date	Group	Activity	Venue/time
11 Oct	Solo Lunch	Lutterworth Golf Club	NB! 11.30 am for noon
14 Oct	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
15 Oct	SWANS	Brock's Hill, Oadby	10.30 am in car park
16 Oct	Literature	Diary of an Ordinary Woman by Margaret Foster	2 – 4 pm at Brook Court
17 Oct	History	Planning Meeting	10-11 am Methodist Room
18 Oct	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Marlene's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
21 Oct	Creative Writing	Theme: "The Week Before"	2 – 4 pm at Brook Court
24 Oct	All Group Leaders	Meeting	3 – 4 pm Small Lounge
25 Oct	Discussion	"Does the English seaside town have a future?"	10.00 am at Edith's home
28 Oct	Folk Dancing		2.00 – 3.30 pm Village Hall
31 Oct	Walking CARE	Approx 5 miles from The Windmill, Brascote	9.30 am from Village Hall
5 Nov	SWANS	Aylestone Meadows	9.45-ish bus from C'thorpe or park behind Tile Centre
6 Nov	Scrabble	Scrabble, Upwords, Rummikub	2 – 4.30 pm Brook Court
12 Nov	Monthly Meeting	Origins of Place Names <i>Spker: Anthony Poulton-Smith</i>	Doors open 1.30 pm Speaker from 2.00/2.15 pm
13 Nov	Flower Arranging		2 – 4 pm Small Lounge
15 Nov	CHEWS	Main meeting + weigh-in	Ruth's home, between 9.15 and 10.15 am
17 Nov	Solo Lunch	Venue TBA	Noon for 12.30 pm
18 Nov	Creative Writing	Visit from Leicester Group Favourite pieces (+ "Meeting")	2 – 4 pm at Brook Court
19 Nov	SWANS	Christmas Lunch at Bella Italia	Noon for 12.30 pm
20 Sept	Literature	"Yellow Birds" - Kevin Powers	2 – 4 pm at Brook Court
22 Nov	Discussion	Topic: "Does History Teach Us Anything?"	10.00 am at Jill's home
28 Nov	Walking (CARE)	See website or Nov What's On	9.15/9.30 from Village Hall



FOLK DANCING

Our dancing dates for October will be Mondays, 14 and 28, and then 11 and 28 November.

We dance in Countesthorpe Village Hall between 2 pm and 3.30 pm and everyone is welcome to join in. Dances are organised to fit the numbers who arrive! Come along and join in the fun!

Details from Patsy Paterson on 277 6259

WALKING (C.A.R.E.)

The September walk, led by Barry Hillyard, was from The Pig in Much, Claybrooke Magna. Twenty-six members turned out for this walk.

We left the village passing Manor Farm and, crossing several fields, arrived at Claybrooke Lodge Farm, where we joined the Fosse Way* (part of the Leicester-shire Round). On reaching High Cross, we stopped for a short break before continuing on 'the Round' to Claybrook Parva.



Progress was interrupted when we came across some rather large and unusual mushrooms.

At Claybrooke Parva, as time was pressing, we followed the road back to the pub and lunch.

** The Fosse Way was a Roman road that linked Exeter to Lincoln, via Ilchester, Bath, Cirencester and Leicester. It crosses Watling Street at Venonis (High Cross), the site of a Roman fort and settlement.*

More details from Malcolm Skerritt on 277 2599 or Allen Donkin on 277 3665

HISTORY GROUP

Thursday, 10 October: Visit to Snibston Discovery Park to see the exhibition “**Treasure! Shedding Light on Leicestershire’s Past**”. Part of the Leicestershire Museum’s Portable Antiquities collection, this includes items dating from 2,500 BC to the seventeenth century. Leave Village Hall at 9.30 am using shared cars (small donation to driver, please). Entrance fee is £6.25 – pay individually on arrival at Snibston. Own arrangements for lunch and return time, so you can stay as long as you wish.

Thursday, 17 October: Planning Meeting 10.00 am at Methodist Chapel. Please bring your ideas! Any offers to help organise events gratefully received. Full support is provided, and there are no bookings or money issues to deal with! Thanks for suggestions received to date!

Then we return to **Peter Liddle’s** popular talks on “**Discovering Leicestershire Archaeology**”. These last three in the series will take place on the dates shown below in the Methodist Chapel, Wigston Street, 10 am to noon/12.20 pm and will cost £3 on the door, to include refreshments. No pre-booking is necessary – just turn up on the day!

Thursday, 7 November: Early Anglo-Saxon Leicestershire
An illustrated exploration of life and death in Anglo-Saxon Leicestershire and Rutland through archaeological discoveries in the area.

Thursday, 5 December: Mercian, Viking and Norman Leicestershire
Leicestershire was at the heart of Mercia – for many years the pre-eminent Anglo-Saxon kingdom until it was smashed by Viking invaders.

Thursday, 9 January 2014: Medieval Leicestershire
A period of villages, open fields, castles and abbeys but also of famine, pestilence and war. This talk will introduce the rich archaeology of medieval Leicestershire.

For details see the website or email June on jhawkins45@talktalk.net or telephone on 0116 277 6330.

If you have changed your address, or phone number, please let Sue Wyllie (our Treasurer) know so that we have your current details in case we need to contact you!

INDOOR MODEL FLYING

U3Air flies weekly in the Sports Hall at Countesthorpe College. Each Saturday morning during the winter months our group puts tiny electric fixed-wing aircraft and helicopters into the air for a few minutes at a time.

There are now many model planes available that can fly indoors in a large room. Their types and their speeds vary - some fly at a crawling pace, some at a jogging pace - and we have seen one or two collisions! However, these planes are very light, around 20 to 40 grams, so usually only a little damage is done, and there is no risk of injury to the pilots!

Our members' helicopters have rotor diameters varying from about 100 mm to 250 mm, and there is a lot of difference in the amount of air moved to keep them aloft. The large helis can be likened to an upside down lawnmower, whilst the small ones barely could blow away a small piece of paper! The snag is that the large ones can blow away the small ones!

We have developed a certificate of competence for indoor helicopters. The test includes safety questions and then hovering on the spot, flying a T-shaped path sideways, and flying figures of eight at constant (well, nearly constant) altitude. About five of us passed!

It's all great fun, and we would be pleased to welcome any U3A member who wants to come along and have a look at 9:30 am to 12:00 noon on Saturdays, from now until the end of November (except 9th November). To find the Sports Hall, walk left immediately after entering Countesthorpe College gates and follow the path to the small door; turn left at the end of the short corridor.

For info telephone 247 7212 or email: U3AirCountesthorpe@gmail.com

LEARNING TO DRAW

Starting on 8 January 2014, an initial six-week course, to be held on Wednesday mornings 10 am – noon, has been arranged. The venue is still to be finalised, as is the cost (estimated between £48-54). Full amount will be due at first meeting.

Heather Wharam, an experienced artist and qualified teacher, will be our tutor, and will bring an enthusiastic and lively approach to teaching basic drawing techniques.

Names from the 'interested' list will be contacted to confirm places in due course.

Details from June Hawkins on 277 6330 or jhawkins45@talktalk.net

CHEWS NEWS

Controlled Healthy Eating With Support

We are a group of consciously eating cheerfulness. Our aims are mostly threefold:

One: to be aware of food and to think about its value.

Two: to know how much we need to stay fit and healthy.

Three: to encourage one another and to understand difficulties.

How do we do all this? We meet every Friday for a quick weigh-in and a brief chat. Once a month we meet for an hour. All our talking is definitely not about food and weight. As friends, we catch up with things in general but we do speak of how we are doing weight-wise and what we will do next to help us to achieve our aims.

We have only success to report. What is success? It's what you want it to be - losing weight, staying the same, reducing the dreaded yo-yo; all this by adopting whatever dietary regime suits individuals best.

If this sounds like something that might be helpful for you, come and join us on Friday mornings.

See 'What's On' for details or ring Ruth on 277 1533

“Christmas is a-comin’ and the goose is getting fat!”

CHRISTMAS LUNCH

Our U3A Christmas Lunch will be on **Friday, 29 November** at Tastes Restaurant, Leicester College – the same as last year.

Menus and booking forms are available in the lobby at meetings or to download from the website.

£21 with coach transport, or £16 without (includes tips + prize draw).

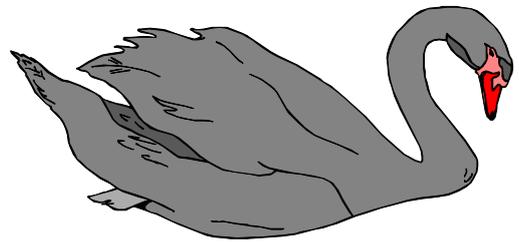
Closing date is 11 November – NO late bookings accepted!

S.W.A.N.S.

About a dozen SWANS met at Glebe Gardens for our planning meeting on 27th September. I had prepared a programme based on two previous autumn/winter schedules.

We discussed plans for our Christmas Lunch on 19th November, and decided to go to Bella Italia at Meridian, so I have already made a provisional booking and will need menu choices and deposits (£5) as soon as possible, please. The menu is a little different but all the usual suspects are there, albeit under Italian names!

We also talked about a walk at Brock's Hill, Oadby on 15th October when we will give feedback to the Management, as there is someone new in place who will welcome our comments. With only a couple of minor amendments the programme was accepted, and is available from me, just ask! Details are also available on the website, and in the monthly What's On.



At the end of the meeting I asked the members to give some thought to another leader taking over. I have had to miss a number of walks this season due to circumstances beyond my control, and feel that the group should have a leader who can take part in all the activities. At the end of this season (March 2014) I hope that someone else can take over so that I can take a back seat for a while. I will, of course, make all the walks leaflets, etc, available to whoever that may be. I have enjoyed setting up the SWANS and seeing the group go from strength to strength; long may it continue!

Pamela Runacres (277 2653)

BEGINNERS' PHOTOGRAPHY

A new 4-week course for those wanting to learn to use their camera effectively is about to begin. This will be held on Monday evenings, 7 – 8 pm on 4, 11, 18 and 25 November at Barry Hillyard's home, 35 Station Road.

Sign up on sheet in small lounge, use email contact form on website, or call 07901 548576.

THEATRE PROGRAMME



Thurs 31 Oct	War Horse	£60	Birmingham Hippodrome	VH 12 noon	9 April
Tues* 26 Nov	The Hindle Wakes	£16	Market Harborough	Leys 6.40 pm, + VH, Square	8 Oct
Tues* 10 Dec	Chicago	£20	Curve, Leicester	Leys 6.10 pm, + VH, Square	11 June
Tues* 28 Jan	Sleuth	£16	Market Harborough	Leys 6.40 pm, + VH, Square	12 Nov
Mon, 17 Feb	The Mikado	£16	Concordia, Hinckley	VH 6.35 pm, Square, 6.40 pm	10 Dec

WAR HORSE - A last opportunity to see this amazing and heart-warming production! How can puppets be so life-like?

THE HINDLE WAKES - A mill girl spends an illicit weekend in Wales with a wealthy mill-owner's son. First produced in the early 20th century, this play explores the reactions and decisions after this shocking event.

CHICAGO – Get your Christmas season off to a great start with 'All That Jazz' in this award-winning show – FULLY BOOKED

SLEUTH - a very funny parody of the classic country house thriller, the plot twists and turns creating an atmosphere of tension and suspense between the older, successful man and his younger rival.

THE MIKADO – enjoy this well-loved Gilbert and Sullivan operetta!

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

*** SORRY, BUT DUE TO ZUMBA CLASSES, THERE IS NO PARKING AT THE VILLAGE HALL ON TUESDAY EVENINGS – AFFECTING 'PEOPLE', 'THE HINDLE WAKES' and 'CHICAGO'. THE COACH WILL PICK UP AT THE LEYS, THE VILLAGE HALL AND THE SQUARE – PARKING IS AVAILABLE IN THE CO-OP OR CENTRAL STREET CAR PARKS**

SELECT YOUR CHOICE OF PICK-UP POINT WHEN BOOKING AND THEN PLEASE DO STICK TO IT! THIS AVOIDS US HAVING TO MAKE PHONE CALLS OR THE COACH WAITING UNNECESSARILY AT EARLY STOPS!