

# Countesthorpe U3A Newsletter

December 2018 – May 2019

Issue 2

## CHAIRPERSON'S LETTER

Hello Everyone

Your committee has been very active over the past few months. Data protection and financial matters have demanded some considerable time, with two sub-committees being formed to ensure that our U3A is compliant with the various rules and regulations required. Our work on these two important issues is still on-going. The committee has also taken the decision to adopt a computerised management system called 'Beacon'. This is a specialised system designed specifically for U3As, and many U3As have adopted this throughout the country. Having already received a first-hand demonstration we are confident that it will help enormously with managing our membership database and with finance administration. A third sub-committee has been formed to oversee the introduction of Beacon. We hope to have it up and running during the spring next year.



You may have read the news article in the latest edition of the Third Age Matters magazine which referred to a new research study "Learning not Lonely" undertaken by the Third Age Trust. This revealed the undoubted benefits for both the physical and mental well-being of members. The survey found that making new friends and feeling supported were the two main benefits of membership. Other benefits included learning new skills, becoming more engaged with the community, managing life changes and building self-confidence. This is a real testament to all the individual self-funding U3A organisations throughout the country which rely on the contributions of willing volunteers to promote and facilitate these desirable outcomes. Countesthorpe U3A is no exception. We urgently need more volunteers. We need YOU!

The Festive Season fast approaches. What's more, we have our excellent Christmas lunch to look forward to, which is always a most enjoyable occasion.

With very best wishes to you all.

Peter Bradbury  
Chairperson

(TEL 01455 273604)

## A VOYAGE OF DISCOVERY

On a bitterly cold morning in late October, an intrepid band of 12 members set off for London's Tilbury Dock and boarded the MV Columbus for a short voyage of discovery to three European major cities – Amsterdam, Hamburg and Antwerp.

Once aboard we enjoyed an excellent buffet lunch and then settled into our comfortable and well-designed cabins, before exploring the ship itself. This ship had had various former incarnations with other cruise lines and had been recently refitted to a high standard, offering the usual mix of theatre, bars, atrium, library, shopping galleria, beauty salon, etc. The cold and blustery weather prevented us from enjoying much of the outside decks, though we had to brave the mandatory lifeboat practice! I must say we all looked very fetching in our bulky, bright orange lifejackets, accessorised with varied woolly hats, scarves and gloves!

Food always forms a very significant part of cruise ship life, and this was no exception. There was a huge choice of high quality food on offer, in either a buffet or more formal table-service restaurant. The culinary highlight of the cruise was the Hallowe'en Buffet in the atrium, where the staff had truly excelled themselves in terms of spookily creative offerings to tempt the taste buds.



Our first port of call was Amsterdam, with a number of excursions on offer. We decided on the combined coach and canal trip which gave us a fascinating insight into this maritime city's history and present day attractions. The guide was actually a Greek who had lived in the city for a very long while, and could poke very gentle fun at the Dutch psyche and way of life, whilst giving us a great deal of solid information about the city.

The following morning we docked in Hamburg, and set off to explore this second city of Germany. Again, from the several excursions on offer, we chose the 'Panoramic Hamburg' coach trip. Whilst we had been to Hamburg as part of former twinning visits to nearby Norderstedt, we were treated to sights we had not seen before. Our German guide was incredibly knowledgeable and interesting and we thoroughly enjoyed the sights and sounds of this beautiful city. Near the inner of the two lakes (the Binnen Alster) we marvelled at the sumptuous houses (and their price tags, too!) before taking a fascinating trip around the warehouse quarter. This sounds rather uninteresting, but I found this one of the absolute highlights. The architecture, the tales of the buildings' past usage in trade, and how the present is utilising these amazing buildings were all

so interesting. I really felt that I wanted to spend more time there, and may just be tempted into a short break in Hamburg to do just that, as it is 30+ years since I was last there.

The following day was spent relaxing at sea, before we docked on Thursday morning in Belgium's second city of Antwerp. This is the diamond capital of Europe, but sadly, the day did not sparkle – being chilly, cloudy and a little damp. We took one of the city tour buses for an hour's journey, with commentary, around the city. As it was All Saints Day, many places were closed and the people seemed to have disappeared. However, from about 11.30 am, the city awoke and seemed a whole lot more interesting. The cathedral and amazing gothic central railway station were fine architectural points of interest, and it was good to wander the maze of small cobbled streets and explore the sixteenth century passageways. Coffee and cake won the day, of course, and then as the drizzle began to fall, the comforts of the ship beckoned and we returned to Columbus for our final evening before landing at 8 am back at Tilbury on Friday.



We would all like to thank Jill for organising this holiday – I think it is a U3A first to have a cruise holiday! As Jill is also giving up the monthly outings side of the Travel Group, this is also a good opportunity to thank her for all the days out she has organised over the past few years, and to say that we look forward to more U3A holidays with the Travel (Holiday) Group in the future. (I think that Guernsey is already fully booked, but no doubt there will be other holidays coming along.)

*June Hawkins*



## CHANGES TO GROUP MEETINGS OVER FESTIVE SEASON

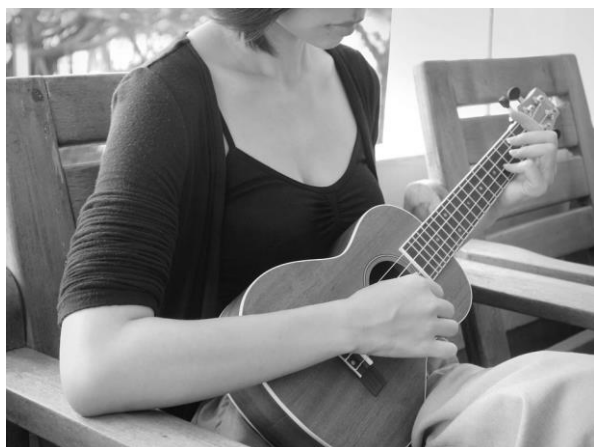
*(Please note that this may not be a fully comprehensive list, so remember to check with your own Group Leader/s)*

- **Line Dancing** - no meeting 28 Dec
- **Model Flying** - no meetings 22 and 29 Dec, nor 5 Jan
- **Handbells** - no meetings 26 Dec and 2 Jan
- **Carpet Bowls** - no meetings 26 Dec and 2 Jan
- **Country Dancing** - no meeting 24 Dec; resume from 14 Jan
- **Guitar** - no meetings 24 and 31 Dec; resume from 7 Jan
- **Kurling** - no meetings 26 Dec and 2 Jan
- **Bridge** - no meetings 24 and 31 Dec; resume from 7 Jan
- **Ukulele** - no meetings 26 Dec nor 2 Jan
- **Tenpin Bowling** - no meeting 31 Dec, resume 14 Jan
- **Photography** - December meeting will be on 6th.
- **Signing** - No meetings 25 Dec, 1 Jan.
- **SWANS** – No walk 1 Jan
- **Walking (CARE)** – No Dec walk



### **Do You Fancy ‘Leaning on a Lampost’? (sorry – that should be ‘Learning to Play the Ukulele’!)**

If the answer is ‘yes’ (or even ‘maybe’), why not come along on a Wednesday between 11.15 am and 12.45 pm to the small lounge at the Village Hall and see what is involved? We are a small (at present) group who are learning in an informal, self-help way (in true U3A style). The ability to read music is not necessary. However, a sense of humour and a willingness to enjoy yourself are most definitely required.



You could possibly borrow a ukulele for a taster session, but they are very reasonably priced and help is at hand to help you choose. We learn simple chords, and practice our music-making by strumming along as we sing well-known songs. Just £2 per session.

*For details, call Isobel McDonald on  
0116 367 8314*

## CLARIFICATION OF OUR 'MEMBERSHIP YEAR'

Our membership year runs from 1 April until 31 March the following year. If any new member joins after our two 'renewal opportunity' meetings in April and May, they still pay the full amount, but their full or associate membership runs only until following 31 March. So, even if somebody joins, say, in November or January, they will still pay the full annual fee (it's currently only £13, after all!) and will be required to renew after 1 April alongside existing members.

This may seem a little hard on anyone joining late in 'our year' but we still have to pay the annual expenses, such as capitation to the Third Age Trust.

We hope that this helps to explain and clarify the situation.

## MODEL FLYING

This group has been established for many years but unfortunately is not viable with only U3A members. Thus, very reluctantly, we will be de-listing Model Flying from our U3A groups from January. However, the good news is that you can still go along if you have a spare couple of hours on a term-time Saturday morning at 11.30 to Brockington College Sports Hall, Enderby and take a look at the Model Flying activity! New members are keenly sought and are always very welcome – the group flies on, but without the U3A badge.

The group is very creative, designing and building various small flying models for indoor use – both aeroplanes and helicopters. Two of the latest additions to take to the 'indoor skies' are two Vulcan bombers which had their maiden flight in October.

A training aircraft may be made available if required, and insurance covers members against third party damages! The cost is very reasonable at £8 per session, or £66 for a ten-week 'term'.

However, for visitors, the first two weeks are free of charge, to enable them to experience indoor flying at no cost.



A friendly welcome can be expected by all visitors and the group would be delighted to see some more faces and to teach them how to fly! For those determined to fly, having no wings is just a little detail.

For more information, please contact John Armstrong on 247 7212

# WHATEVER IS HAPPENING?!

Well, the Travel Group is separating into TWO new groups with effect from January 2019. Jill Clayton has been running day outings and holidays for about four years now, and has decided to reduce her workload by concentrating on holidays only from now on. Thus, responsibility for the monthly outings will be taken over by Isobel McDonald, ably assisted by Teresa Morgan.

So, from January, please note that there will be TWO separate groups, and watch out for them on the website and in What's On!

## HOLIDAYS

=

Jill Clayton  
0116 277 7154



=

## OUTINGS

Isobel McDonald  
0116 367 8314

+

Teresa Morgan  
07882 604263



If anyone has any ideas to improve our Newsletter, or any contributions for the next issue, then I would be very pleased to hear from you – just contact me by phone on 277 6330 or by email at [jhawkins45@talktalk.net](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net)

# IMPORTANT NOTICE

In common with every other organisation, Countesthorpe U3A is having to comply with the new General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR). No doubt you will have had this notification from several other organisations as everyone gears up to the new requirements. So that we can continue to contact you just the same as we do now in connection with your chosen U3A activities, we will have to formally ask your permission to continue doing so.

A small group of committee members has been looking at the most efficient way of achieving this. Thus, at renewal in 2019 we will be asking you simply to fill in a slightly revised membership form. This will be a good opportunity to check that we have the correct contact details for you, and it also will give you a chance (if you are a UK tax player) to Gift Aid your subscription. *(This just means that we can claim back a sum equal to a quarter of your subscription, which can then go back into our funds for everybody's ultimate benefit – such as helping to keep our costs down.)*

So, watch out for the new form, to be available at/from the February meeting and please do respond so that we can keep in touch – we don't want you to lose out on information from your U3A!



**Members of the  
Line Dancing Group  
enjoyed their  
Christmas Lunch at  
The Bull's Head.  
Countesthorpe.**

To join line dancing, contact  
Tricia on 277 5135

Village Hall, Fridays,  
11.30 am – 12.30 pm

# NOTICE OF ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING

Although this is some months away, there will not be another issue of our Newsletter before the AGM in May 2019. Thus, we are giving the required notice to members in this edition.

The Annual General Meeting of Countesthorpe U3A will be held at **2 pm on Tuesday, 14 May 2019** in the Village Hall. Please note the following key points:

The Chairman and Treasurer will present their reports and take questions, committee members will be elected (though not to their roles), and an examiner for the accounts will be appointed.

The AGM will also seek approval from the members present for the subscription rate to be increased by £2 if required for the 2020/21 year.

Under the Constitution, our committee will have 12 members (plus up to two co-opted members if required). Sue Wyllie (*our current Treasurer, who was co-opted after the resignation of David Fagg*) is standing down from the committee.

**Thus we are in dire need of a Treasurer, as we are unable to operate without one. The very continuity of our U3A is dependent upon someone coming forward to fill this role. Computer skills essential.**

There are usually vacancies for committee members. We would urge anyone interested to come forward, as we would really like some 'new blood'. Ideally, committee members should have an email facility, though this is not essential. It is not an onerous role and there is plenty of support available. Please discuss with a committee member if you are interested.

Nominations need to be with the Secretary by 4 May, and nomination forms are available from the Treasurer's desk or on application to any committee member. You can nominate yourself or somebody else (*with their agreement!*) Please 'do your bit' to help Countesthorpe U3A continue to prosper! We fully understand that it is much easier for members to 'take', rather than to 'give', to our U3A. Whilst we want everyone to continue to enjoy what our U3A offers, it cannot prosper without a continuous stream of volunteers. **In short, Countesthorpe U3A needs YOU.** So please offer it some of your time if you possibly can.



# NEWS FROM SOME OF THE GROUPS

*Full details can be found on our website ([www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk](http://www.countesthorpeu3a.co.uk)), or 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*

## **SIGNING**

*Liz Stewart on 277 5044*

We are a very small group of people who have chosen to sign. Some of us have a little experience of signing, some of us joined the group not having signed before and none of us are experts! All of us like to sign because it exercises our brain, it is fun to do and it could be useful one day! It is loosely based on British Sign Language with added bits from Makaton and Signalong.

We try and have everyday conversations using both signs and finger spelling. We sign poems and songs, tell the time and even practise times tables to try and improve the speed in which we sign. It's a little bit like patting your head and rubbing your tummy at the same time as holding a conversation!

We meet twice a month on the first and third Tuesdays between 10.45 am and midday. We would be very happy to have a few more join the group - either beginners or improvers; even people like me who need to keep practising what I have already learnt not to forget it and at the same time trying to widen my signing vocabulary!

## **COUNTRY DANCING**

*Patsy Paterson on 277 6259*

U3A Country Dancing afternoons, which are enjoyed by around 20 of us, include styles ranging from very solemn 17th century to frivolous modern dances and ranging across Maypole Dancing, Sword Dancing, Scottish Country Dances and sometimes International Dances - so life is never dull! The main essentials for coming are a good sense of humour and comfortable shoes and layers of clothing are also advised so you are comfortable at all times.

There is plenty of room for more dancers in Countesthorpe Village Hall and we dance between 2 and 3.30 pm on the second and fourth Monday of each month — don't hesitate to phone if you want to talk it through before coming.

## **ART**

*Maureen Thacker on 278 1877 (to end of 2018)*

*Pamela Whitehead on 277 8855 from January 2019*

Maureen Thacker will be retiring from the Art Group in December, and Pamela Whitehead is taking over from January 2019. The group will be making Angels from the Realms of Glory for our Christmas Tree in the Methodist church. Our group does not have a tutor but everyone provides support for each other. We have a few materials, videos and books available to borrow. The cost per session is just £2.00, including tea and biscuits.

## **BIRDWATCHING**

*Janet Easey on 277 2544*



The Birdwatching Group has had a good year with outings as far afield as Slimbridge and Attenborough. We don't always see many birds but are thrilled when we spot something new to us, such as cranes at Slimbridge and a whinchat and merganser at Attenborough. In 2019 we are again going out and about as much as possible with trips planned to

Welney and Rushden Lakes, as well as visits nearer to home. We are definitely not "twitchers" but, with the help of books, apps and one very knowledgeable member, are becoming increasingly well informed and we enjoy recognising more of the birds we see and hear around us.

## **TRAVEL**

*Jill Clayton on 277 7154*

42 members had a very successful trip to Bembridge Isle of Wight in May visiting many sights, including Carisbrooke Castle and Osborne House. Day trips included Windsor Castle and The Saville Gardens, Kedleston Hall and on November 26th to Chatsworth House for Christmas. A mini cruise to Amsterdam, Hamburg and Antwerp at the end of October proved very successful. The holiday to Guernsey next May has been very popular with only 1 room left just 10 days after it was first offered!

A Travel Planning meeting and Social will be held in The Cornerstone. St. Andrews on January 15th at 7.30 pm. All are welcome for ideas for future trips and holidays and as a thank you for participating in events. From next January, the Travel Group will be split into two, "Holidays" and "Outings". Please attend to meet your new Outings organisers. Also it would be helpful if you could sign up at the Travel desk to give us numbers for catering purposes.

## **GARDEN APPRECIATION**

*Ruth Westley on 277 1533*

We have had another successful year with talks, meetings and outings. Palmer's hosted an instructional talk on the care and pruning of shrubs; in May and August three members welcomed us to see how their gardens grow. What a delight that was; six very different back gardens, each with their interesting individuality. We had four coach outings and good weather was enjoyed on three of them. The wettest day for sixteen weeks fell on us in Trentham. We desperately needed rain but perhaps not on that Thursday. We finished the year with a friendly meeting to share and discuss our experiences of the hot, long, dry summer. The last meeting was a slide show reprising gardens visited by our U3A. Thank you June. The new programme for 2019 is under way and should be available soon. Everyone is welcome to our meetings and outings.

We are looking for three U3A members who would be happy to invite us into their gardens for half an hour or so. We are so non critical and enthusiastic, there is nothing to fear and everything to enjoy.

## **CHEWS**

*Ruth Westley on 277 1533*

This is a small group of friendly people who endeavour to be conscious of eating sensibly and controlling their weight. We always welcome new members and the New Year is perhaps a good time to take a breath and have a critical look at what you eat. How balanced is your diet?

## **SWANS (Short Walks And No Stiles)** *Pauline Woodward on 07936 555048*

Each of our walks attracts between 12 and 20 people. We wander the many attractive byeways and canal towpaths, lanes and parks around our locality, covering about 2 or 2.5 miles. We don't do mud, stiles, snow or horrid weather! Our walks are on the first and third Tuesdays and start from various points at 10.30 am, and usually end up in a coffee shop! Details always appear in What's On and on the website.

## **CRAFT CIRCLE**

*Teresa Morgan on 0788 2604263*

This relatively new group offers a range of crafts following demonstrations and examples from Teresa. This may include card-making, lavender bags, scrapbooking (creative photo albums), patchwork and memory boxes, with perhaps visiting speakers. The meetings are held on Tuesdays, twice a month between 10 am and noon at Teresa's home, for the nominal fee of £1 plus the cost of any materials used. Call Teresa if you would like more details.

## **BRIDGE**

*Alan Rooks on 277 2484*

This friendly group meets weekly between 2 and 4.30 pm in the Methodist Church, and is now seeking more members. You do not need a partner, as cards are drawn for this, though you do need to be able to play the game. Just £2 to include refreshments. Call for more information, or just come along.

## **DISCUSSION**

*Liz Lockwood-Jones on 240 2296*

Recent topics have included "Can We Afford Not To Grow Genetically Modified Crops?", "Are Boycotts Futile?", and "Is there a Breakdown in Family Values in the West, and if so, Should the State Attempt to Redress it?", "Are you Proud to be English/Scottish/Welsh/Irish?" and "Is Evil Innate or Learned?". Whilst many meetings are in members' homes, we are now meeting several times a year in Mulberry Court, as three of our usual 'hosts' have taken up residence there! Our Christmas meeting will again be there and the topic will be Hot News. Our discussions are not academic, but prove to be interesting and wide-ranging, though seldom reach a conclusion. Why not join us?

## **SOLO SUNDAY LUNCH**

*Sheila Holmes on 277 2131*

Well, the group has had a decent six months, apart from losing a few of our friends - Edith Bardsley, to name just one - and others have fallen by the wayside. On top of all this, Ullesthorpe Court meals gradually went downhill in quality and up in price! We were therefore "in a state of flux" as they say. We tried the Lime Tree in Whetstone to see how we fared there, but eventually opted to return to Ullesthorpe Court by popular demand. We may still look for a new venue in 2019.

## **CREATIVE WRITING**

*Mikki Wilde on 277 5509*

We scribble on! We hope members are enjoying the fruits of our labours - recently published in "Pot Pourri". If you haven't had your household's free copy, just ask at any general meeting. Additional copies are available to purchase for the princely sum of £1.

We continue to amaze ourselves at the variety of pieces which stem from a single theme! It is one of the most fascinating aspects of this group. Some of us suffer from 'writer's block' from time to time, and after the festive season we will be trying out some exercises in creative writing to get ourselves back on track.

## **THEATRE**

*June Hawkins on 277 6330*

After our summer break we started the new season with a bang! Matthew Bourne's new interpretation of Swan Lake, which we enjoyed at Curve, proved a real hit. We next visited Milton Keynes' lovely theatre to see "A Comedy About a bank Robbery" – completely different, but very enjoyable. We have White Christmas to look forward to, followed by "The Girl on the Train" from the recent bestselling book, then "Funny Girl" at Concordia. This is followed by "Lloyd George Knew My Father" at Market Harborough, before the touring premier of Matthew Bourne's latest production: "Romeo and Juliet" at Curve. War Horse returns on 2 October! Why not join us and enjoy a great theatre performance, with almost door to door transport, good seats, good company and support for local theatre productions! Book early, as seats sell out quickly.

## **HISTORY**

*June Hawkins on 277 6330*

We know that winter is here, as Peter Liddle returns to inform and entertain us at the Methodist Church, with the topic moving onto Medieval Leicestershire. His current talks will see us through until January, when our programme of outings begins again in February. Our programme this year will include a History Mystery, Burghley House, Grimsthorpe Castle, the Black Country Museum, Charlecote Park, Newark Civil War Museum, Mosely Old Hall (plus David Austin Roses – with the Garden Appreciation group) and several others to be confirmed. It is hoped that a September break will be to the Colchester area, though this is currently proving problematical. More information will follow. (See *separate piece on the recent visit to Llangollen.*) Any member is very welcome to join us on these outings. Watch for details in What's On, the website and in the small lounge at the History desk.

## **PILATES**

*Ursula Wild on 277 5881*

Pilates continues to thrive under the instructor, Debbie Cooper. Costs are held at just £5 per session. Chairs can be used as an alternative to floor exercises. Why not give us a try - these sessions help build core strength, balance and give you confidence in your movement. Tuesdays (except the second in the month) in the Village Hall between 2.30 and 3.30 pm.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

*Mike Thompson on 277 0584*

The Group meets at 12.30 pm on the second Monday of every month. Its current, very welcoming, venue is The Bull's Head where up to a dozen regular members take it in turns to present a topic of their choice. One does not have to be a scientist or technologist to participate as evidenced by the following list of subjects which have occasioned lively debate over the last year: Gravity; The cerebellum and its function; Electro-chemical processes in the brain; Marsupials; Forms of radiation; Infinity in relation to the Universe; The development of electric motors. New members of this long-standing group would be most welcome and further information may be obtained from the Group Leader, Mike Thompson (neither a scientist or technologist), by e-mailing him at [mtmiket7@gmail.com](mailto:mtmiket7@gmail.com)

## LITERATURE

*Anne Strang on 284 4641 until end Jan,  
then Janine Tibbles on 01455 888289 from Feb*

A feature of this group is encouraging us to read books we'd never consider reading otherwise. Quite often one can come to the group with very fixed opinions after reading a book, which often other people reinforce and then suddenly someone will come out with a comment or criticism that makes you look at it in a totally different way, which you'd never have thought of even if you read the book 10 times over! Sometimes it spurs us to either finish it (if we had abandoned it halfway through, as occasionally happens) or even to re-read it. Fascinating! Our discussions on the actual book generally widen out quite considerably and are most enjoyable. Group leadership rotates amongst the members every six months. A list of the books we read throughout the year is on the website, together with six months' worth of summaries of our discussions.

## CHRISTMAS LUNCH 2018

Our lunch was held at Taste Restaurant at Leicester College on Friday, 30 November and enjoyed by 116 members, with a few more unable to join us on the day itself!

### Prize Draw results:

- First prize (£20 giftcard) went to Barbara Ewen
- Second prize (£15 giftcard) went to Sylvia Barradale
- Third prize (£10 giftcard) went to Barry Hillyard

Yes, it's early to think about NEXT Christmas when *this* one is only just around the corner, but reserve this date for Taste Restaurant:

**Friday, 29 November 2019**

## HISTORY GROUP VISIT TO LLANGOLLEN

At the end of September, 36 members of the History Group enjoyed a three-night break by coach to the pretty Welsh town of Llangollen. On the way there, they called at Attingham Park, a National Trust property near Shrewsbury where they toured the house and had time for lunch before making their way to the White Waters Country House hotel.



After a hearty breakfast, the group set off for a canal boat trip, courtesy of Jones the Boats, along the world-famous Pontcysyllte Aqueduct. This is a navigable aqueduct that carries the Llangollen Canal across the River Dee in north east Wales. The 18-arched stone and cast iron structure, which took ten years to design and build, was completed in 1805. Some brave souls with a head for heights even chose to walk back across the aqueduct!

We then headed off to Erddig House, another lovely NT property, where we lunched before exploring the house. We heard the story of how the owners treated their servants almost as extensions to the family – a startling contrast to some situations!

Our second day began with a ride on the Llangollen Steam Railway, and we enjoyed a cream tea – albeit at 11 am! *(When did time ever matter when scones, jam and cream are available!)* Our journey took us through the rolling Welsh countryside to Corwen and back, before returning to our coach for the short drive to the magnificent Chirk castle, standing proudly atop a hill. The gardens were still lovely, and the inside of the castle proved most interesting.



Our return journey was broken once back in England by a short stop at Boscobel House, reputedly where King Charles II hid in the oak tree. A small English Heritage property, this was nevertheless interesting, and after exploring the house and grounds we set off to find an excellent lunch at a nearby garden centre before returning home to Countesthorpe.

*It is hoped that the History Group's short break in September 2019 will be centred around the Roman town of Colchester, Essex. However, at the time of writing, hotel accommodation is proving problematic. Efforts to resolve this will continue, and further information will be available in the New Year, from the History table in the small lounge. The visit MAY be deferred to following year.*

## **NOTES ON ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP AND GIFT AID FOR ALL MEMBERSHIPS**

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 June 2019, and news from the Groups will be much appreciated, or short articles about holidays or outings or any new or proposed groups, etc.

### **Copy deadline is 30 May 2019, 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 no later than the FIRST 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](mailto:jhawkins45@talktalk.net) or  
call on 277 6330*

## **A NOTE ON TRAVEL 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, and perhaps a 'next of kin' contact and/or medical details for use 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
8 Jan	Mary, Queen of Scots – Captive in England	David Templeman
12 Feb	Cyber Crime, Scams and Fraud	Samantha Hancock
12 Mar	Passports, Assassins, Traitors and Spies	Martin Lloyd
9 Apr	The Secrets of the Rich	Roy Wood
14 May	AGM	
11 June	TBA	

## YOUR U3A COMMITTEE 2018-9

Chairman:	Peter Bradbury	01455 274604
Deputy Chair:	June Hawkins	277 6330
Secretary:	Christine Claricoates	277 5251
Treasurer: (co-opted)	Sue Wyllie	284 9959
Membership Secretary	David Wild	277 5881
Information & Publicity:	June Hawkins	277 6330
Speaker Secretary:	Helen Bull	223 8239
Groups Co-ordinator:	Jenny Mills	277 2041
Technical Officer:	Barry Hillyard	277 4187
Committee member:	Beryl Lishman	277 0405
Committee member:	Joan Berry	277 4623
Committee member:	Paula Wollaston	277 9385
Co-opted members:	Jill Clayton (277 7154) & Isobel McDonald (367 8314)	

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. And don't forget the important items in the **STOP PRESS** section of the **HOME PAGE!**

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