

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Mansfield and District U3A Newsletter



Established 1999

January 2012

Website: www.mansfield-u3a.org.uk

Noticeboard: <http://mansfieldu3a.blogspot.com>

Welcome from your chairman

LET ME wish all members of Mansfield U3A a happy and healthy New Year. I'd like to add '*prosperous*', but that might be going a bit too far at the moment!

At least Mansfield U3A can do something about our members' happiness and health – Tai Chi, singing, walking, country dancing and gardening are all activities that add both these elements to our lives, while the other Interest Groups add to our happiness and the health of our minds. We gain physically and psychologically from taking part in activities that stretch our minds and bodies, and we gain even more by joining together in groups to participate.

In a long-winded way, I suppose I'm saying that the strength of a U3A is in its Interest Groups and we should always think about developing new groups. Already this 'season', a Local History Group has blossomed, the choir has gained new members and a Bowls group may well come about. And there may well be further groups to come.

There is one problem – the Committee can and will start groups, but leaders must be found from within the group for it to have a chance of surviving. So, let's make 2012 a year for developing new groups! And new leaders!

The choir certainly started December off well – the concert in St Lawrence's Church was a great success and the audience response paid loud tribute to the U3A choir, to the Bellissima choir and to Suzy Fell, the leader and conductor of both. I felt that that 'our' choir is certainly improving – last year they sang a song or so, now they confidently sing six carols. I do hope that we see them today!

Then came the Christmas dinner. Thanks to Norma Shillinglaw, this was a great success – more people than ever, and a good meal to boot. I was glad to invite new members onto my table – it made lunch the more interesting. I only hope they felt the same!

Continued on page 11 ...

Speakers' Corner

THIS JANUARY follows the tradition of a meeting that 'showcases' our own groups and individual members.

First is **David Ling**, our Web and Newsletter Editor, who is a keen photographer and who runs the Digital World Group. He'll be showing how members are learning to take better photos.

Peter Hart is the Leader of a Classical Music Group, so it may come as no shock that he composes music himself. Today, he tells us about the background of his interest in music and how he came to compose his own music. It is, I may add, a most unusual tale!

Jean Kirk is no stranger to Mansfield U3A members, yet her depth of knowledge of local history may surprise us. The Portland Estate is her subject today.

Doreen Storer of the Chat and Stitch Group will talk about their work and provide an introduction to the work that the Group will display.

Finally, we hope that the **Singing for Fun** choir will be able to end the morning with two songs. You will be able to judge for yourselves the progress of the choir.

Mike Allen

Dates for your diary (Check the website for more information and updates.)

Sat. 25th Feb: ANNUAL FUN QUIZ NIGHT at Queen Elizabeth's School. Tickets – £6 on sale today, includes buffet supper but please bring your own drinks and glasses. Details on page 3.

Holiday Updates

Thoresby 2012 – 23-27 January

YOU SHOULD now have a Warner Guest Registration card and a list of what to do on the holiday. (If not, contact me as soon as you have finished reading this!)

There are 149 going this year and someone might drop out at the last minute. If you would be able to replace any late drop-outs, please contact me on 01623 626991. The price is £192 sharing or £232 single. No place, no charge so going on the waiting list will not cost you anything except the initial phone call. Leave a message on the answer-phone if I am out.

Terry Whitehead.

Rhine Cruise to see Floriade and Keukenhof – 10th to 14th April

The figures for the balance to be paid in February are:- Single passengers on the main deck: £403, inc. the £55 supplement. Couples on main deck: £348. Passengers on Promenade deck: £368, inc. the £20 extra. All prices include a small gratuity for the drivers.

Cotswold Gardens Holiday – 6th to 10th July

I need a cheque today please for the deposit of £20 to send to the hotel and coach company (payable to Mansfield U3A). The balance for the accommodation and coach to be paid in May will be announced later. You should be able to make your choice of gardens in February when the 2012 prices have been finalised.

Croatia by air to the Istrian Peninsula – 29th September to 7th October

I still need two more couples to reach the 42 passengers needed to give us another free place and a reduction in the balance. However please do not delay if you would like to go because the flight will be booked before the end of January and there is always a problem of not being able to fly with the group should you leave it any later!

Please remember that I need a cheque for £50 today (payable to Mansfield U3A) as your deposit - along with your completed front page of the Just for Groups insurance document. Add £46 to the £50 if you choose to take their insurance. I hope that you have also brought in a copy of your passport so that I can avoid any mistakes when booking the flight.

Round Britain Cruise – 24th May - 3rd June 2013

Please see details of this new offer on page 10.

Margaret Burlinson

Updates and more details about these holidays are available on the website ...

Fun Quiz Night – Saturday 25th February, Queen Elizabeth’s School Hall. 7.00 pm.

Hope you can join us for our annual Quiz night in February – bring your brains as well as your bodies and we hope to have some fun.

Cash prizes for winning team!

Teams can be up to 6 maximum – team sheets available.
(There will also be spare tables to make up a team on the night.)

Tickets – £6 on sale at January meeting, includes buffet supper but please remember to bring your own drinks and glasses.

Further details from me on 01623 644798 or by email to
paulineboucher15@yahoo.co.uk.

Pauline Boucher

Recent Events

Thursford

YET ANOTHER Christmas jolly has come and gone and I'm sure all those on the Thursford trip this year enjoyed it.

Being December and being England it was bound to be cold and in this it did not fail.

However this did not diminish the warmth and pleasure of the superb performance Thursford again delivered – suffice it to say many have booked again for 2012.

There were two trips out during our stay, one was to Holt and the other to Norwich, both of which afforded time for ... yes you've guessed it ... shopping.



Stopping off at Stamford on our return journey allowed even more time for shopping but I managed to restrict my wife's purchases on this occasion to something for dinner.

Again Margaret Burlinson's organisation of the trip ran like clockwork and thanks to that and a time-conscious party (I cannot recall a single straggler or am I too much of a gent to mention it?) It was a most enjoyable outing.

Name withheld as I value my safety.

There's another report, by Karen Troop, on the website ...

Carol Concert

ON SUNDAY 4th Dec our U3A Choir *Singing for Fun* put on a carol concert at St. Lawrence's Church Mansfield. We were joined by our friends from the Bellissima Ladies Choir. It was a very enjoyable & successful event, earning praise from all quarters

Many thanks to everyone who arranged the event & took part in it. We were very lucky to have two accomplished pianists, John Sellors & Jacob Savage. Everyone seemed to enjoy the mince pies & the mulled wine at the interval. (Mince pies supplied by the ladies of the choir, mulled wine provided by Suzy's family who also worked tirelessly in keeping the wine flowing out of all the Thermos flasks loaned from choir members.)

My lasting memory of the occasion will be of our much loved Choirmistress, Suzy Fell, helping Janet (who booked the Church for us) HOOVERING up all the mince pie crumbs! Not to mention Margaret Burlinson going round with a damp cloth cleaning marks off the carpet.

Well done everyone.

June Fell

Groups News

Tai Chi

WE RESTARTED at the Rushley on 9th January but hope to return to our normal base at St John's later this month, or soon after, so please keep checking with me for updates – especially in the case of dodgy winter weather.

Cliff Laycock

Groups news continues on page 9 ...

Key to Meetings details:

THIS TABLE SHOWS THE DAY of the month, time and frequency using the first two letters of the day, followed by numbers 1 - 5 to represent the week number. The final letter M (or F or W) indicates that the group meets monthly, fortnightly or weekly.

So '**Tu2, 2.30 - V M**' would mean a group meeting on the **2nd Tuesday** at **2.30pm** Monthly but with **Variable** finish times.

The main Mansfield and District U3A meetings are held on the third Tuesday of each month (except for August and December) at the Oakham Suite, Nottingham Road, Mansfield from 10 am - 12.30 pm.

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Art Appreciation	Mo1, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Baptist Church, Rosemary St.	Pauline Boucher 01623 644798
Next Meetings: 6th February – The Dutch Masters; 7th March – Scottish Colourists			
Beginners' Bridge (With Ashfield U3A)	Mo, Various dates, 6.30 - 9.00	Enviro Centre, Derby Rd College, Mansfield	Maxine Rose 01623 459081 (NB change)
Next Meetings: 23rd January & 27th February. (Also Acol sessions at the Mechanics Institute – Th, 10 - 12.30 W)			
Chat and Stitch	Mo3, 2.00 - 4.00 M	St John's Centre, Mansfield	Doreen Storer 01623 407731
Next Meeting: 20th February; 19th March; 16th April; 21st May			
Current Affairs*	Tu2, 2.00 M	Oakwood Suite, Annexe Nottingham Rd.	Norma Shillinglaw 01623 466934
Next Meeting: 14th February; 13th March; 10th April			
Digital World	Fri2&4, 2.00 - 4.00 2/M	Stanton Hill Baptist Church, Albert St. Skegby	David Ling 01623 822994
Next Meetings: 27th Jan. – Image storage and basic editing; 10th Feb. – Shooting modes Subjects: January – <i>Red</i> ; February – <i>St Valentine's Day</i>			
English Country Dancing	Sa, Various dates, 2.00 - 4.00	South Forest Leisure Centre	Jean Kirk 01623 480207
Next Meeting: 21st January.			

All members are invited to contact the relevant Group Leader if they would like to participate in any interest group or attend an event. **NB: * indicates a waiting list.**

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Family History (Temp venue†)	Tu4, 10.00 M	St John's Centre, Mansfield	Max Clarke 01623 621744
Next Meeting: †24th January 10.30am – at the Family History Room of the Church of Jesus Christ of Latter Day Saints on Southridge Drive, Mansfield			
Film Studies*	We1, 1.30 - V M	Joy's home	Joy Crowe 01623 645400
Next Meeting: 1st February; 7th March; 4th April			
Garden Visits	During the Summer	Various	Marion Thornton 01623 651528
Next Visits: Sat. 12th May – Malvern Spring Show; Thurs. 28th June – Castle Howard; Fri. 6th July - Tues. 10th July – Cotswolds Garden Visits Holiday* (With Holidays Group)			
Gardening	Tu1, 10.00 - 12.00 M	St Peter's Centre, Mansfield	Avril McGee 01623 452688
Next Meeting: 6th March – Introduction to the Gardening Year			
Holidays (Home & Abroad)	Various	TBA	Margaret Burlinson 01623 632538
Next holidays: 23rd - 27th Jan. – <i>Thoresby*</i> (See Terry); 10th - 14th April – <i>Rhine Cruise*</i> ; 6th - 10th July – <i>Cotswold Gardens*</i> (With Garden Visits Group)			
Introduction to Internet use	Various	Stanton Hill Baptist Church	Terry Whitehead 01623 626991
Next Meeting: Contact Terry			
Local History	Fri1, 10.00 M	The Rushley Inn Nottingham Rd	Bob & Sue Longden 01623 486903
Next Meetings: 20th January – Mansfield Quiz (<i>Speaker: Gordon Howlett</i>); March 2nd			
Luncheon Club	Th after 3rd Tu, 12.30 - 2.00 M	Various	David Ling 01623 822994
Next Meetings: 19th Jan. – Lamb's At The Market*; 23rd Feb. – Redgate Inn			
<u>Music Groups</u>			
Classical Music 1*	Th2, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Members' homes	Alan & Marlene Radford 01623 427934
Next Meetings: 9th Feb. – Shostakovich; 8th March – Satie and Poulenc			

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Classical Music 2	Mo4, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Members' homes	Peter Hart 01623 620940
Next Meetings: 23rd January – Beethoven with Peter Crabbe; 27th February – Early Music with Marie; 26th March – Desert Island discs with Sheila			
Music 2*	Mo4, 2.00 - 4.30 M	Members' homes	Eric Prescott 01623 631160
Next Meetings: 23rd Jan; 27th Feb; 26th March (Ring Eric for details of venue)			
Popular Music Appreciation	Tu4, 2.00 - 4.00 M	St John's School, Mansfield	Peter Haynes 01623 610886
Next Meetings: 24th January; 28th February; 27th March			
Pudding Club*	Tu1, 4.00 M	Members' homes	Sylvia Slack 01623 633981
Next Meeting: 7th February at Sylvia's; 6th March at Janet's.			
Reading 1*	Th3, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Peter Dawson's home	Peter Dawson 01623 882191
Next Meetings: 19th January; 16th February; 15th March			
Reading 2	Tu3, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Ravenshead Library	Joan Hufton 01623 557448
Next Meetings: 17th January; 21st February; 20th March			
Science & Technical	Tu1, 1.30 - 3.30 M	Stanton Hill Baptist Church, Skegby	Ian Boucher 01623 644798
Next Meetings: 7th February – Traffic Management; 6th March – Progress of the diode Next visit: 5th June 2012 – Loughborough Bell Foundry			
Scrabble	Mo2, 2.00 - 4 .00 M	Brenda Thurkettle's home	Brenda Thurkettle 01623 628136
Next Meetings: 13th February; 12th March.			
Singing for Fun	Th Various dates, 6.30 - 8.00	Brunts School, Mansfield	June Fell 01623 623547
Next Meetings: 19th Jan.; 2nd & 16th Feb.; 1st & 15th & 29th March; April 12th & 26th Next Performance: Tues. 17th January – Members day presentation - 11.30			
Tai Chi	Mo, 9.30 - 10.30 W	Temp Venue The Rushley Inn†	Cliff Laycock 01623 481985
Next Meetings: 23rd & 30th January; 6th, 13th & 20th February; 5th, 12th; 19th & 26th March. †Check with Cliff for updates			

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Theatre Visits	Various	Various	Mike Allen 01623 653345
Next visit: TBA			
<u>Walking Groups</u>			
Hikers <i>(all-day, 6 - 8 miles)</i>	Th1 & Mo3, 9.30 2/M	Tesco car park, off Oak Tree Lane	Peter Thurkettle 01623 628136
Next Meetings: Thurs. 2nd Feb. – Harboro Rocks to Middleton; Mon. 20th Feb. – Stanton Moor; Thurs. 1st March – Strelley to Moorbridge Park; Mon. 19th March – Foolow			
Strollers <i>(a leisurely 2 miles)</i>	We2, 10.30 M	Various	Barbara Massey / Marion Thornton 01623 628357 / 01623 651528
Next Meetings: 8th Feb. – Burnt Stump; 14th Mar. – Vicar Water; 11th Ap. – S'wood Pines			
Walkers <i>(an easy 4 - 5 miles)</i>	We4, 10.30 M	Various	Sylvia Slack 01623 633981
Next Meetings: 25th January – Thoresby Hall; 22nd February – Harlow Wood; 28th March – Sherwood Forest; 25th April – Vicar Water			
Whist	TBA	TBA	TBA
Next Meetings: This group is in abeyance			
Wine Appreciation 2*	We3, 7.30 M	Members' homes	Mike Allen 01623 653345
Next Meetings: 18th January – Southern Italian Reds with MRA			
Wine Appreciation 3*	Tu4, 7.30 M	Members' homes	Graham Allin 01623 473662
Next Meetings: 31st January – Exhibition Reds with Barrie & Lynne			

BOOK TABLE REPORT

THERE WAS no book table in December so I am doing the annual report.

My year goes from January to December as distinct from Pauline's which is different. So my figures are that in 2011 we raised £482.52 in sales at the Book Stall. The corresponding figure for 2010 was £430.93 which is an annual increase of 12.5%. Wish my pension had gone up the same amount!

If you still make New Year resolutions and have not broken them all yet, why not '*I shall bring a minimum of 2 books to the book stall every month and buy at least 2 books to replace them*'?

Happy New Year to all supporters.

Lilian Whitehead.

Local History

THE LOCAL HISTORY Group held its inaugural meeting in September. At this meeting it was clear the group had interests on a wide variety of subjects, all relating to the local area. It was decided that at the next meeting some members would speak for a few minutes on a subject of particular interest to them.

The highlight of the second meeting, held in October, was these 'Taster Talks' when these same members gave a short talk on a wide range of subjects, including Mansfield Rock Houses, The Birth of the National Health Service, Queen Elizabeth's Girls School, St. Peter's Church and the Stanton Iron and Coal Company.

The third meeting, held in November, saw the structure of future meetings and program agreed. It was planned to vary the program to include group members speaking on areas of particular interest to them with related visits and also to invite speakers.

In December, the group was given a preview of the newly-refurbished Mansfield Library. Of particular interest was the new Local Studies Section, where previously-inaccessible books and documents are now readily available.

The meeting on January 20th 2012 will include a Mansfield Photographic Quiz. There will be no meeting in February. From March the meetings will be held on the first Friday of the month, 10am - 12 at the Rushley.
Sue & Bob Longden



Luncheon Club

LAUNAY'S in Edwinstowe produced an array of fine-dining dishes in the French style for us to celebrate the approach of Christmas in what has become a traditional highlight of the Luncheon Club year.

There were dishes to suit the adventurous and others for those with simpler tastes: oysters or beef broth; smoked salmon profiteroles or pressed belly pork; pheasant and pigeon or lamb breast; trout or cheese roulade. And still some had room for their choice of treacle tart or various chocolate creations!

All accompanied by the friendly chatter that is a hallmark of Mansfield U3A events.



Our thanks go to Alain Launay, Alison and their willing and skilled teams in the kitchen and front of house.

Our New Year lunch at Norma Shiilinglaw's choice of Lamb's at the Market on 19th January is fully-booked but please let me or Norma know if you'd like to be told if any cancellations occur. Then, on 23rd February, Mary Lewis is arranging lunch at The Best Side at the Redgate Inn on Westfield Lane, where staff changes and refurbishments have transformed what some will still know as an estate pub of limited appeal! Bookings will open today.

David Ling

There are more photos of both events on the website ...

Gardening

OUR 2012 programme kicks off on March 6th at St Peter's Centre with 'An Introduction to the Gardening Year'. This will take the form of a members' meeting where we will all have an opportunity to get to know each other, discuss the programme for the year and enjoy a light hearted quiz with a gardening theme, and of course there will be the usual plant stall, raffle and refreshments.

As always, we welcome existing members of the Gardening Group and hopefully some new members will join us for what is expected to be a varied and exciting programme, including some new speakers, and garden-themed visits.

At the February U3A meeting, we will be taking names of all who are interested in joining us for the 2012 season. In the meantime, if you have any queries, please have a word with anyone on the organising committee – Avril McGee, Marion Walker, Pat Gunter, Sheila Whalley, Jackie Ling, Janet Whitlam, Karen Troop and Colin Slack.

Avril McGee

Garden Visits

I HOPE members will make diary notes to come along with us as often as possible on this year's visits programme that's shaping-up to be our best ever, although details are still being finalised. (Updates will be announced here and on the website as they become available.)

- **12th May:** Malvern Spring Show: ranks with the Chelsea as the best UK Flower Show.
- **28th June:** Castle Howard: wonderful landscaped gardens and park with spectacular views.
- **TBA August:** Renishaw Hall & Gardens: 10 Italianate gardens and much more.

I should have entry prices for members who are joining us on the Cotswolds holiday (**6th July - 10th July**) very shortly and these will be available from me, Margaret Burlinson and on the website very soon. (The holiday is fully-booked but Margaret's waiting list is still open!)

Marion Thornton

Holidays

Round Britain Cruise – 24th May - 3rd June 2013

'JUST FOR GROUPS' company is offering a reduced price for this cruise on MV Braemar before it appears in the Fred Olsen Cruise Lines preview brochure. I am assured it has been a very popular holiday in the past so if you are interested please collect a leaflet with details of the itinerary and the accommodation, price and cabin details.

Our home port will be Dover and we will be calling at Guernsey, Falmouth, Dublin, Lerwick in the Shetland Isles, Invergordon and Rosyth with ample time for optional excursions every time. There'll be lots to see en-route too as we cruise past the Western Isles, for example, and lots to do on board as Fred Olsen's pride themselves on their food and entertainment.

This offer will finish in March so it will be a pity if we cannot take advantage of this opportunity. They will run it for us even if there are under ten people!

Margaret Burlinson

Digital World

WE'VE STARTED our 2012 meeting programme with a return to basics, helping inexperienced members get to grips with the settings on their cameras. We're also discussing how to use home computers, or one of the 10 we have available at Stanton Hill, to store and crop photos and share them with friends and family.

Do come along on a 2nd or 4th Friday (2.00 - 4.00pm); I can promise you'll pick up some simple tips and enjoy friendly company.

David Ling

Welcome from your chairman ... continued from page 2

I was sorry to miss the Music Groups' 'concert', but somehow managed to survive the Wine Group's meal – a really superb do with a lot of wine. I am sure that all other groups celebrated well.

Today, we will be entertained by our own members (see page 2). Of course, no arms were twisted in the making of the programme, just gentle persuasion. But how fortunate we are to have individual members who are willing and able to talk to us all about their interests and I thank them (and Glenis Carr, our V-C and Groups Coordinator) most sincerely for their efforts. Add the choir to the individuals and the morning will be complete.

Of course, this has been written before our own 'Scottish Night'. Naturally, it was a great success a week ago – thanks to Rita Turner's hard work.

Looking into the future, I'd like us to start thinking about the **Jubilee Jamboree** on Tuesday June 12th at the John Fretwell Complex, opposite the Hostess, on Sookholme Road. This will be a celebration of the Queen's Jubilee by all the North Notts U3As and Mansfield U3A must do itself proud. What could we do?

Could we go back to a '50s fête and run a coconut shy or a hoopla stall? Has anyone got the makings for these – or for anything else like apple-bobbing, pinning the tail on a donkey or a stocks and wet sponge stall? Please, please, please come up with ideas. Tell any Committee member if you have any ideas or equipment or if you can beg, borrow or steal something that will make the day go with a bang!

Our treasurer Pauline has worked hard to get us registered for the Gift Aid Scheme with the Inland Revenue. This means that we will be able to claim income tax back on your subscriptions. So, if those members who are tax payers would consider signing a Gift Aid form, we will have an added income stream.

Pauline will explain the scheme in more detail in the February Newsletter and the forms will be available soon.

Finally, the sheets for new groups are on the Chairman's Table at the front. I invite you to add your name to the Bowls Group. I'll mention other new groups during the meeting as the Committee will have to accept them. This year could be fun – let's all enjoy ourselves.

Mike Allen

Free electric blanket safety check in Mansfield

THE COUNTY Council is urging older and disabled people with electric blankets to get them tested this winter at a free testing event on 25th January in Mansfield.

Anyone who wants to attend the free event should contact the Council's trading standards team on 01623 452005 to make an appointment in advance.

Further details about the venue will be given when a booking is made. Anyone who has a blanket that fails the tests will be given a voucher for 50% off a replacement.

At a similar event in Northamptonshire recently, 352 electric blankets were tested and 236 (67%) of these were found to be faulty.

Councillor Mick Murphy, Cabinet Member for Community Safety at Nottinghamshire County Council, said: *"Electric blankets can be a great way to stay warm if they're used and stored correctly. But when blankets are old or if they're folded over and over again, they can be dangerous."*

Further information about electric blanket safety is on-line at www.esc.org.uk.

Edith Senior

It is with great regret that we have to record the death on 4th January of one of our founder members, Miss Edith Senior.

Edith became the first Chairman of Mansfield U3A when it was formed in 1999, and during the first year she endeavoured to attend most of the Interest Group meetings.

Prior to retirement, Edith had a very successful career in the National Health Service. From commencing as a Cadet Nurse at Harlow Wood Hospital, she progressed through various posts and ultimately became Regional Nursing Officer to Sheffield Regional Hospital Board. This covered all hospitals in South Yorkshire, Leicestershire, Lincolnshire, Derbyshire, and Nottinghamshire. Edith Senior was very highly qualified and had lectured in many parts of the world.

The funeral was private.

Ray Reader



Disclaimer

THE VIEWS expressed here are those of the contributors, only, and do not necessarily reflect those of the editor, the committee of Mansfield U3A or the Third Age Trust. Nor can any responsibility be accepted for errors that may occur.

Next Issue

PLEASE SEND CONTRIBUTIONS for the February issue by email to mansfieldu3a@aol.com, or in typescript, to the editor as soon as you can and by 1st February at the latest. Thanks!

Editor: David Ling (01623 822994)

Printed by: Portland Print (www.portlandprint.org.uk/)