

THE THIRD AGE TRUST



THE UNIVERSITY OF THE THIRD AGE

Mansfield and District U3A Newsletter



Established 1999

June 2011

Website: www.mansfield-u3a.org.uk

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

Welcome from your chairman and committee

SINCE our last meeting, the holiday season has really arrived.

Members from Sherwood, Mansfield, Ashfield and Hucknall U3As have enjoyed a coach holiday to the Isle of Man, organised by Margaret Burlinson with her usual skill, patience and expertise.

There will be scarcely time to get the washing and ironing done before the next holiday to the Loire Valley.

In addition to the holidays, some of the interest groups have planned days out, so there is plenty to look forward to over the summer, following the Picnic in the Park on Monday 13th June.

On a different but still happy note, we must extend our congratulations to John Hufton and Joan McDonald, two of our members who were recently married.

We wish them every happiness together.

This is the just the latest of several weddings within the Mansfield U3A, and (so Sylvia Slack tells me), the third from the walking group. What is it about the walking group? Could it be Sylvia's benign influence, or could it be that the sun always shines on walking group days?

We don't know, but whatever it is, it seems to be more successful and much cheaper than going on a Mediterranean Cruise !



Many thanks to Pauline Boucher who chaired the last meeting, and to Pat Blackwell who gave a presentation on "the Workhouse" at short notice. I'm told this "all ladies" meeting was a great success.

The beauty of the U3A is that you can give to it as much or as little time and enthusiasm as you wish, but the important thing is to enjoy it !

Max Clarke

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

Thurs 30th June: WORKSHOP for Group leaders at Brackenhurst. Covering art appreciation, music, history, theatre visits, card and board games & keep fit. Details from Glenis Carr (627735).

Tues. 16th August: ANNUAL PICNIC. Queen Elizabeth's School 12.00. Free, but bring food to share. Details from Pat Prescott (631160) or Pauline Boucher (644798).

Sat. 15th October: AUTUMN HANDICAP RACE NIGHT. Queen Elizabeth's School. Details and tickets next month.

Mon. 5th December: CHRISTMAS LUNCH. Oakham Suite. (NB Change of date.) Details from Norma Shillinglaw (466934).

Speakers corner

THE SPEAKER this month is Denise Edwards, the General Manager of Hardwick Hall, our local National Trust masterpiece.

I did intend to get a full biography from Denise when I was volunteering there a couple of Sundays ago, but by the time the power cut that closed the restaurant had been sorted out, the rain had stopped and the visitors had gone, there was no time.

No doubt Denise will tell you something of herself, although the main talking point will be the changes to the 'visitor experience' (ghastly jargon!) at Hardwick in the next couple of years.

Mike Allen

Holiday Notices

Thursford Christmas Spectacular (7th, 8th & 9th December)

DEPOSITS of £30 are due today at the meeting or sent to me before the end of June please, otherwise I shall have no option but to fill your place from the waiting list. Balances are due in September – the amount to be announced later.

Loire Valley (10th - 18th July)

A brief reminder of the meetings on the 18th or the 25th June at the Junction Pub, Sutton in Ashfield at 11am when I shall be giving out luggage labels etc. for this holiday.

Margaret Burlinson

Warner's Thoresby Hall (23 January 2012 to Friday 27 January 2012)

BOOKINGS for this holiday have been made. Anyone wanting to be put on a waiting list in case we have cancellations please contact me, preferably via email. It will cost you nothing to go on the waiting list and if you decide not to come when I ring you up to say a place is available that cost you nothing either. You get four nights bed, breakfast, evening meal and a full programme of entertainment included for £192 sharing, £232 single. We have 146 coming this time and experience has shown that someone will have to cancel.

Any questions ring me (01623 626991). Better still send email to thoresby2012@yahoo.co.uk. If you send an email and do not get a reply in three days, blame the computer and phone me instead (leave message on machine if I am out).

Terry Whitehead

Recent Events

Isle of Man Holiday 15-21 May 2011

IT WAS GOOD to set out in the sunshine with a coach load of happy travellers. Our first stop was for refreshments on the M6, only to find that the service area had been demolished. A very major refurbishment was under way !

However, we were driven onto the ferry and had an uneventful crossing to Douglas. It was a surprise to see wind turbines in the sea half way between Heysham and the Isle of Man. Our destination was the Hydro Hotel on Queen's Promenade in Douglas, and as soon as we arrived, we were rushed straight into dinner. The ferry was late !

One of the problems of travelling in a party is that some are allocated a nice front room with a splendid view of the bay, whilst others get a room at the back overlooking the service yard. The hotel staff did their best by moving some of us to better rooms the following morning after another party had departed.

Peel, on the West coast, with its castle and fishing harbour was our destination on the next day. The intermittent rain didn't dampen our spirits, and some of us spotted some seals basking on the rocks below the castle walls. Our visit to the kipper smoking factory was rather disappointing – all the work had finished for the day and there was very little to see, but the owner did his best by explaining the process.

Tuesday was described as a "leisure day". The weather had improved, so the walkers could explore on foot, the culture vultures could visit the excellent museum, and the adventurous could visit the South of the island on the service bus or the steam train. Although a leisure day, everybody was tired and ready for dinner that evening.

The Laxey Wheel, the largest working water-wheel in the world, was our destination the following morning. Full marks to those who were brave enough to climb the exterior spiral stair to the top. They could look down at the diminutive figures of those at ground level.



After the Laxey Wheel, we went on the electric railway to the summit of Snaefell, at over 2000 feet, the highest point on the island. The electric railway is actually a 100 year old tramcar with slatted wooden seats, which rattled its way up the mountain. On a clear day, from the top, it is possible to see Ireland, Scotland, Wales and England, but it wasn't clear enough for us.

The wind was very strong, and those of us who walked the last 100 yards to the trig point at the summit were almost blown off our feet !

And so to the South of the island on the following day, first to Castletown, the original capital of the island with its splendid castle. After that, a short ride to Port Erin with its beautiful bay in the sunshine. Cregneash Folk Village was next with its old thatched cottages. The inhabitants still use horses and speak Manx.

After stopping to look at the Calf of Man, a small island separated from the main island by fierce currents flowing through a rocky channel, we boarded the Isle of Man Steam Railway for the 15 mile ride back to Douglas. This 3'-0" gauge railway was opened in 1874, and is operated by steam locomotives and equally ancient carriages.

And so to the last full day, an excursion to Ramsey, the second largest town on the island with a fishing port and interesting old fashioned shops. The North part of the island is fairly flat, and in our drive round, we stopped at a remarkable place called "Jurby Junk". This was an old aircraft hangar filled with second hand books and other "junk". There was absolutely no order or classification – just piles of books on the floor, in old laundry baskets and on overloaded shelves. Given enough time, I'm sure you would be able to find anything !

On Saturday we had an early breakfast before a 5-minute ride to the ferry. The sea was as calm as a millpond, and we arrived in Mansfield about 4.00 o'clock.

Thanks to Margaret Burlinson for organising the holiday and making sure that everything ran smoothly.

Max Clarke

There are over 50 photos of this holiday and another report, by Glynis Benford, on the website.

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 M**” would mean a group meeting on the 2nd Tuesday at 2.30 pm monthly.

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 Meeting: 4th July – TBA			
Beginners' Bridge (With Ashfield U3A)	Mo, various dates, 6.30 - 9.00	Enviro Centre, Derby Rd College, Mansfield	Maxine Rose / Edith Senior 01623 654022
Next Meetings: 26th September; 10th October (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	Marion Owens 01623 634408
Next Meetings: 19th September; 17th October; 21st November;			
Current Affairs *	Tu2, 2.00 M	Oakham Suite, Nottingham Rd.	Norma Shillinglaw 01623 466934
Next Meetings: July 12th; September 13th; October 11th.			
Digital World	Fri2, 2.00 M	Stanton Hill Baptist Church, Skegby	David Ling 01623 822994
Next Meeting: July 8th – Composition and zooming; discussion topic: <i>'buildings'</i>			
English Country Dancing *	Sa3, 2.00 M (except as below)	South Forest Leisure Centre	Jean Kirk 01623 480207
Next Meeting: TBA			

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.**

Found

A very nice pair of ladies' black leather gloves was handed in at the last meeting at the Oakham Suite and has not been claimed yet but Pauline has them in safe keeping.

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Family History	Tu4, 10.00 M	St John's Centre, Mansfield	Pat Blackwell 01623 481745
Next Meetings: June 28th – Family history quiz; July 26th – Doom and Gloom			
Film Studies *	We1, 1.30 M	Joy's home	Joy Crowe 01623 645400
Next Meeting: 6th July			
Garden Visits	During the Summer	Various	Marion Thornton 01623 651528
Next Visits: 2nd September – Ashwood Nurseries in the West Midlands			
Gardening *	Tu1, 10.00 M	St Peter's Centre, Mansfield	Avril McGee / Freda Cooper - 01623 452688 / 01623 621173
Next Meeting: July 5th – Visit to Philip Jones, Ravenshead; August 2nd – TBA			
Holidays (Home & Abroad)	Various	TBA	Margaret Burlinson 01623 632538
Next holidays: 10th - 18th July – <i>Loire Valley Châteaux and Wine*</i> ; 7th - 9th December – <i>Thursford Spectacular</i> ; 23rd - 27th January 2012 – <i>Thoresby</i> (See Terry Whitehead)			
Introduction to Internet use	Various	Stanton Hill Baptist Church	Terry Whitehead 01623 626991
Next Meeting: Contact Terry			
Luncheon Club	Th3, 12.30 M	Various	David Ling 01623 822994
Next Meetings: June 23rd – The Dog, Pentrich; July 21st – The Lambley, Lambley Christmas special: December 16th – Fine dining at Launay's (£16 for 2 courses.)			
<u>Music Groups</u>			
Classical Music 1 *	Th2, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Members' homes	Alan & Marlene Radford 01623 427934
Next Meetings: July 14th – Verdi at Eric's; 11th August – Grieg with Peter			
Classical Music 2	Mo4, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Members' homes	Peter Hart 01623 620940
Next Meetings: 27th June – Handel at Peter C's; 25th July – English C20th at Marie's			

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
Music 2 *	Mo4, 2.00 - 4.30 M	Members' homes	Eric Prescott 01623 631160
Next Meeting: 27th June			
Popular Music Appreciation	Tu4, 2.00 - 4.00 M	St John's School, Mansfield	Peter Haynes 01623 451053
Next Meetings: 28th June; 26th July Next Concert Visit: TBA			
Pudding Club *	Tu1, 4.00 M	Members' homes	Sylvia Slack 01623 633981
Next Meetings: July 5th at Janet's; August 9th at Sue's; October 4th at Sylvia's			
Reading 1 *	Th3, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Peter Dawson's home	Peter Dawson 01623 882191
Next Meetings: 21st July; 18th August			
Reading 2	Tu3, 2.00 - 4.00 M	Ravenshead Library	Joan McDonald 01623 511713
Next Meetings: 19th July; 16th August			
Science & Technical	Tu1, 1.30 - 3.30 M	Stanton Hill Baptist Church, Skegby	Ian Boucher 01623 644798
Next Meetings: 6th September – <i>Chemistry</i> , by Terry Whitehead Next visits: 24th June – Bletchley Park; 5th July – RAF Scampton			
Scrabble	Mo2, 2.00 - 4 .00 M	Brenda Thurkettle's home	Brenda Thurkettle 01623 628136
Next Meeting: 11th July			
Singing for Fun	Th2&4, 6.30 - 8.00 F	Brunts School, Mansfield	June Fell 01623 623547
Next Meetings: 30th June; 14th July; 28th July Next Performance: TBA			
Tai Chi	Mo, 9.30 - 10.30 W	St John's Centre Mansfield	Cliff Laycock 01623 481985
Next Meetings: June 27th; July 4th, 11th, 18th and 25th			
Theatre Visits	Various	Various	Mike Allen 01623 653345
Next visits: July 27th: Stamford, 7.45pm – ' <i>Pride and Prejudice</i> '			

Interest Group	Meetings	Meeting Places	Leader/Contact
<u>Walking Groups</u>			
Hikers <i>(all-day, 6 - 8 miles)</i>	Th1 & Mo3, 9.30 F	Tesco car park, off Oak Tree Lane	Peter Thirkettle 01623 628136
Next Meetings: 7th July – Pleasley Vale/Archaeological Way; 14th July – Evening Walk			
Strollers <i>(a leisurely 2 miles)</i>	We2, 10.30 M	Various	Barbara Massey / Marion Thornton 01623 628357 / 01623 651528
Next Meetings: 13th July – Brierley Pk; 10th Aug – Portland Pk; 14th Sept – Harlow Wd			
Walkers <i>(an easy 4 - 5 miles)</i>	We4, 10.30 M	Various	Sylvia Slack 01623 633981
Next Meetings: 22nd June – Wellow; 27th July – Pleasley; 24th August – Linby			
Whist	Various Sa, 7.30 M	Chatsworth Drive, Mansfield	Edith Senior 01623 654022
Next Meetings: June 18th; September 26th			
Wine Appreciation 2*	We3, 7.30 M	Members' homes	Mike Allen 01623 653345
Next Meetings: July 20th – Semillon blends with John & Margaret; August 17 – Beaujolais with Ron & Carol			
Wine Appreciation 3*	Tu4, 7.30 M	Members' homes	Graham Allin 01623 473662
Next Meetings: July 5th – Wine Society with Barrie and Lynne; July 26th – The Rhone with Jill; Aug 23rd – Jura & Lorraine with Ron and Carol			

BOOK TABLE REPORT

IN MAY we raised £37.60 which brings the running total for this year to £222.50.

Considering the number of absentees last month I think the amount was satisfactory.

As well as my trusty helpers, a big thank you to both those who buy books and those who bring them.

Prices remain at just 40p per book and 20p per magazine so please come over and look through the bargains and help save money on next year's annual subscription.

Lilian Whitehead.

*Why do bankruptcy lawyers expect to be paid?
Always try to be modest. And be damn proud of it!
If a thing is worth doing, it would have been done already.*

Strollers at Cresswell Crags

THIS MONTH'S walk at Cresswell Crags with the strolling group was too good an opportunity to miss. Organised and surveyed by Marion Thornton, it is an extraordinary space and was easy for me to find too – up the A60, turn left just past the Welbeck farm shop and it is well signposted from there.

The car park is attractively laid out and the good crowd of strollers with canine guests were easy to spot. We set off on a cloudy morning, passed by the impressive new visitor centre and museum on excellent paths and were delighted by a huge mass of red poppies nearby.



The path we had taken took us to the lake where we were graciously allowed a close view of a pair of swans with their family of fluffy brown cygnets. Following the path under overhanging rocks and alongside the lakeside edged with wild flowers – tall purple-flowering comfrey, golden vetch and the large-leaved butterbur.

From time to time we saw white safety-helmeted crocodiles of school children on field trips. Leaving the water's edge and heading out onto the highway before stepping back onto field paths. We were all delighted by the antics of a playful "Thelwell pony", no doubt pleased to have such an appreciative audience. Now we were onto woodland paths and just as we were beginning to wonder where we were, we found ourselves crossing the Crags Road at the entrance we had all taken on arrival.

Most of the group opted for refreshment in the excellent café but I was keen to see the displays and history trail in the museum and was absorbed by the discoveries I found there. We had packed in so much in such a short time and I am sure everyone was as grateful to Marion for this treat as I was.

Jackie Ling

Groups' News

Wine Group 2

THE MAY meeting was a bit of a change. After some years of tasting wines, the group had reached the conclusion that the length of time a bottle had been opened made a difference. So we decided to test this.

Take a bottle of good Chilean Cabernet Sauvignon at £10. Open one bottle the day before the tasting, one in the morning, one a couple of hours before and one just before. What was the difference?

Well, not much! The glass of wine that seemed to be 'better' was that opened a couple of hours before the tasting. So our conclusion was not proved. Of course, this was not a scientific experiment, but it was fun!

By the way, when I was on holiday in Anglesey, I visited a vineyard on the east coast, hidden away near Cemaes. Not sure I much liked the wines I tasted, but I did get a bottle of Pinot Grigio (tunnel grown grapes) which I've yet to try.

Following on from this, I found out that there are 5 vineyards in Yorkshire, as far north as York, with others near Leeds and Doncaster. The English Wine Producers website has a list of vineyards in the Midlands and the North – good idea for a day out, perhaps.

Mike Allen

Digital World

THIS NEW GROUP got off to a lively start last month, helping snappers to get to grips with some of the features they didn't even know were on their cameras but make all the difference.

We're now meeting monthly on 2nd Friday afternoons and usually start with one of the excellent DVDs from the OU Resource Centre, discuss it and move on to sharing experiences using the settings on our cameras. Some members are learning to do simple edits on the computers too.

We also discuss photos members have taken to a common theme and share suggestions about how they could have been better and can be improved with simple free software. (*'Birds'* produced some interesting submissions last month and we'll be discussing *'buildings'* in July.)

Do come along to Stanton Hill Baptist Church at 2.00 if you have a camera, whatever your knowledge, as the aim is to have fun learning together. Sessions cost £2 to cover use of the computer suite and tea/coffee. (Please bring your camera, with a full battery and a memory card.)

David Ling

Current Affairs Group

CURRENT AFFAIRS Group meetings are now held at the Oakham Suite. This has proved to be more expensive but a more comfortable venue. Our group has gone from strength to strength, so much so that for the moment we are at full capacity. We have interesting and lively discussions covering a wide range of subjects. In fact we put the world to rights !

On Friday 27th May, 22 of our members went for lunch at the Red Brick House. This came highly recommended by several of our members and it lived up to our expectations. We had an excellent lunch which was well served in lovely surroundings.

Norma Shillinglaw

Luncheon Club

OUR MAY LUNCH at **The Elm Tree, Heath** was very popular and highly successful, thanks to John West's arrangements. What a shame that he and Celia had to miss it through illness!

Margaret Burlinson has arranged our next one, on June 23rd at **The Dog, Pentrich** – a gastro-pub with a fine reputation – where the menu, priced at £9.99 for 2 courses and £13.99 for 3, will include rump steak.

Then on July 21st we'll be sampling the highly-rated fare at the Lambley in Lambley, chosen by John and Karen Troop.

CHRISTMAS IS COMING!

I know we're only just into summer but please make a diary note that Thursday December 15th will be the highlight of our gastronomic year – Joyeux Noel, or Happy Christmas in the French style, at Launay's in Edwinstowe. This was a near-sell-out last year but I have booked a larger room so friends will be most welcome. There'll be four fine-dining courses to choose from for those with good appetites and exploratory tastes with costs from just £16 for two. A non-returnable deposit of £10 will be needed by the October meeting to confirm your place.

Details will be at the Lunch Club table today so get your name down if you're able to join us.

David Ling

*If you think nobody cares about you, try missing a couple of credit payments.
Attempt to get a new car for your spouse – it'll be a great trade.*

Theatre Trips

I HAVE the tickets for Stamford, so collect them from me if you wish. The date is Wednesday, July 27th. The performance starts at 7.45pm, fifteen minutes earlier than before. But we'll still start from Mansfield at 5.00pm from the Odeon car park. Final details next month.

There are a number of touring companies around this year:

Oddsocks, with their manic take on 'Macbeth' will be at Nottingham Castle on the 8th and 9th July, then at Carnfield Hall*, on the way to Alfreton, at 5.00pm on the 24th July. Cost £12.

***If anyone wants to go to this at Carnfield, I'll book tickets for you. See me at today's meeting. Should be fun!**

The Lord Chamberlain's Men are at Newstead Abbey on Sunday July 10th at 6.30pm with 'A Midsummer Night's Dream' (£10.00).

Finally, the **Globe Theatre Touring Company** are at Hodssock Hall with 'As You Like It' on the 28th - 30th June.

More importantly, I'd like someone to take over running the trips. As I hope to be elected Chairman in September, I do not think that I will have the time for 2 years to run the Theatre Trips. I'd be very grateful if someone could take over.

Full training given!

Mike Allen

Holidays

GARDENS IN THE COTSWOLDS (Friday 6th July - 10th July 2012)

I am now able to advertise our holiday in liaison with the Garden Visits group, that we shall be visiting in July – see details below. Please feel free if you are interested, to come to the Holiday table and sign up for this 5-day holiday.

Basic cost without garden choices: twin rooms or doubles £202, singles £250

Please book to visit the gardens of your choice directly with Marion Thornton in due course.

Margaret Burlinson

Garden Visits

HAVE YOU MADE any holiday plans for 2012? Why not come and join the Holidays/Garden Visits Group visiting five delightful gardens in the Cotswolds?

Itinerary

FRIDAY: Sudeley Castle and Gardens on the way down to Gloucester.

There has been a house on this magnificent site with views over the Cotswold Hills for over a 1000 years. Explore ten individual gardens set among ancient buildings.

SATURDAY: Painswick Rococo Garden.

The Rococo Garden is a fascinating step back to a flamboyant period of English Garden Design. It was originally laid out in the early 18th century. 10 acres. Open 11 – 5pm. Coach House Restaurant. Some gradients. Explore Gloucester later during day.

SUNDAY: Cerney House and Gardens.

A garden in a sheltered hollow surrounded by beech woods. It was inspired by Rosemary Verey after a visit to Barnsley House. A garden full of colour and interest. 10 acres + 40 acres of parkland. Refreshments.

MONDAY AM: Hidcote Manor Garden (National Trust.)

One of the most famous gardens in Britain. Lawrence Johnston had a vision of a wild garden within a formal setting. 10.5 acres. 2 hours 20 mins to explore garden. Refreshments. Then 5 minutes away: Kiftsgate Court – a series of interconnecting gardens in 4 acres. They are the creation of three generations of women gardeners. Refreshments.

TUESDAY: On the journey home, we will spend some time in Stratford and visit the Shakespearean Gardens.

Admission prices for 2012 aren't due to be published until January so please see me then to book your visits. (Full details of all the gardens are on the Garden Visits page of the website.)

Marion Thornton

'The alternative Medical dictionary'

Cauterize - Made eye contact with her

Fibula - A small lie

Labour Pain - Getting hurt at work

Nitrates - Higher than day rates

Urine - When your not out

Stop press ...

I'VE JUST uploaded an update from the U3A Resource Centre to the website Documents page that lists dozens of new DVDs they now have available on free loan. Like every other page, it is fully searchable from the Home Page side bar so it's easy to find titles to order.

David Ling

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 July issue by email to mansfieldu3a@aol.com, or in typescript to the editor, as soon as you can and by 3rd July at the latest. Thanks!

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